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...R OF THE RAGNOROK, THOR'S DAY

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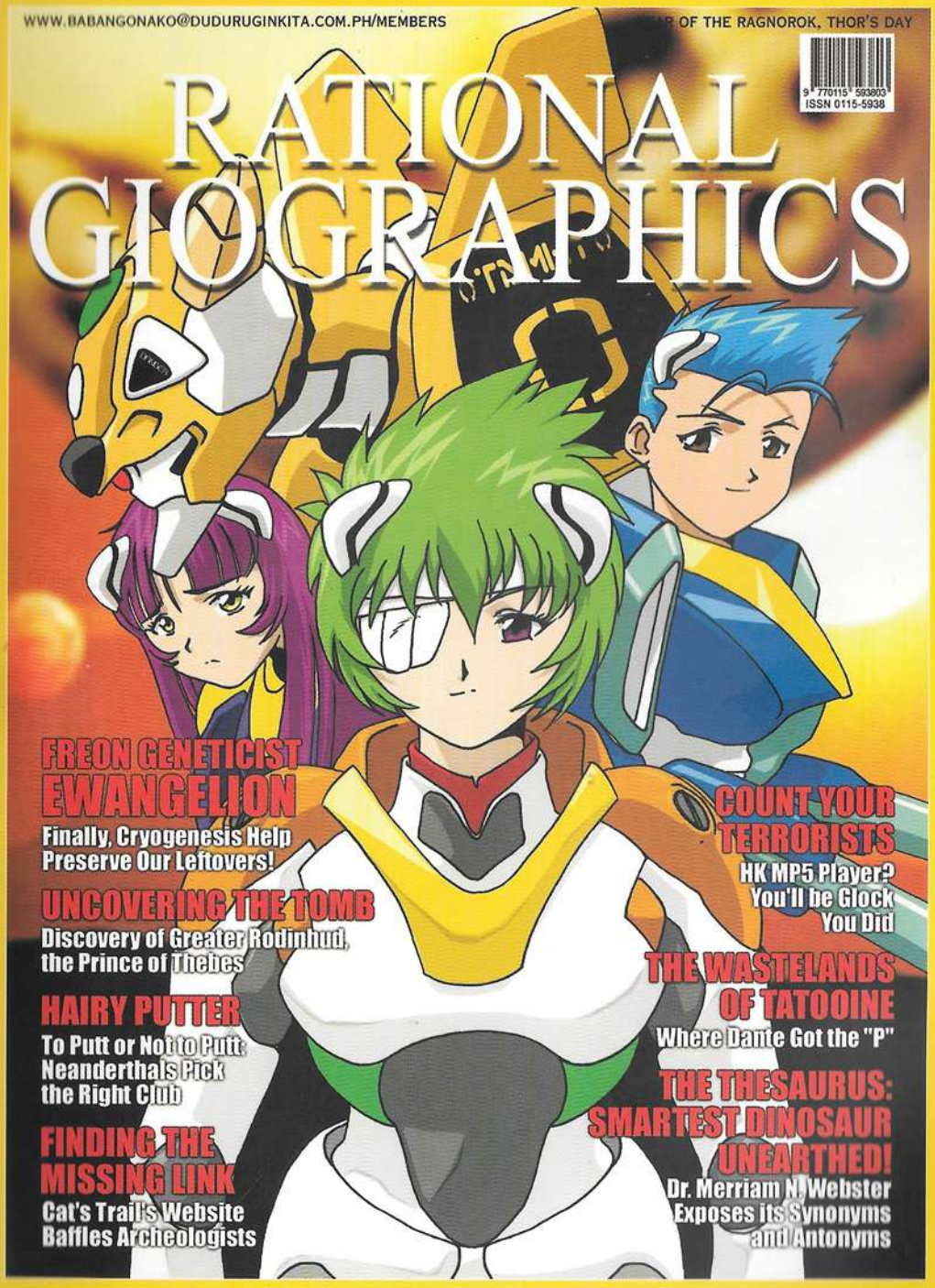
RATIONAL GIOGRAPHICS



FREON GENETICIST EWANGELION
Finally, Cryogenesis Help Preserve Our Leftovers!

UNCOVERING THE TOMB
Discovery of Greater Rodinhud, the Prince of Thebes

HAIRY PUTTER
To Putt or Not to Putt: Neanderthals Pick the Right Club

FINDING THE MISSING LINK
Cat's Trail's Website Baffles Archeologists

COUNT YOUR TERRORISTS
HK MP5 Player? You'll be Glock You Did

THE WASTELANDS OF TATOOINE
Where Dante Got the "P"

THE THESAURUS: SMARTEST DINOSAUR UNEARTHED!
Dr. Merriam N. Webster Exposes its Synonyms and Antonyms

MANGA • ANIMÉ • FAN ART • ARTICLES • PIN-UPS • HOW WE DRAW • COMICS

CULTURE CRASH™

85 PESOS
issue 5 volume 1
march 2001
(OK, OK, we're late! we know, we know!)

issue 5

MUSIC REVIEW
Who is L'Arc~en~Ciel?
The Corrs in Blue

MANGA REVIEW
2001 NIGHTS

DVD ANIME REVIEW
PRINCESS MONONOKE

NOKIA'S 9210

FAN MANGA!!

DA BHOSS ON HOW WE WRITE 4
Story Conceptualization

Special Report: WHY WE HATE CULTURE CRASH!!

Solstice Butterfly
1:5 Pagkakataon
Story & Art by: Jerard F. Beltran
Co-Translator: Jescie James L. Palabay

PLUS! ONE DAY ISANG DIWA AND SOLSTICE BUTTERFLY PULL-OUT POSTERS!

Luna, Military Technician ng Lost Batallion Command

Cat's Trail | One Day Isang Diwa | PASIG

TERRORISTS WIN!!!

Yes we are very, very late again. And yes, we are very, very sorry again...

This is getting embarrassing to say the least, not to mention unprofessional. I guess this is one of the reasons why we have trouble getting ads despite sales.

We start everything from scratch, which is why everything takes so long; but I will not talk about excuses anymore. We tried, we failed. In the next few months we will be taking dramatic steps to improve our production schedule. Experimentation and more will follow. During this time we will probably go bi-monthly, as in, we will be coming out once every two months. As of the moment we are rushing the next issue but we can no longer give guarantees. The next two issues thereafter will probably be bi-monthly. The best we can suggest is that you get the phone numbers of the shops where you buy your copies and call them to check if there is a new issue. We wholeheatedly, inexorably apologize for the inconvenience. Especially to the new subscribers. Rest assured, the subscribers will get their copies as soon as the newest issue becomes available.

We are now entering a stage of uncertainty, a stage we have brought upon ourselves. Now, more than ever, we ask for your continued support. Without it, we will cease to be. Believe me, we are as frustrated as you are. We are hardly finished with the introduction parts of our stories as it is. We are still to arrive at the "fun" parts of our stories.

Hopefully after two to three issues we can re-establish lost lead time and take the proper measures to insure that we finallly become a consistent monthly publication.

It is my ardent hope and wish that we still deliver something fresh, entertaining and our very best to you every issue to deserve your continued support. If something wonderful happens in the course of these coming months I have faith that Culture Crash and it's readers, will make an indelible mark in the Philippine print history.

In faith,

Jescie James L. Palabay

STAFF:
Jescie James Palabay
Jerard Dominic Irving F. Beltran
Elmer A. Damaso
Taga-ilog (alias) Taga-ilog

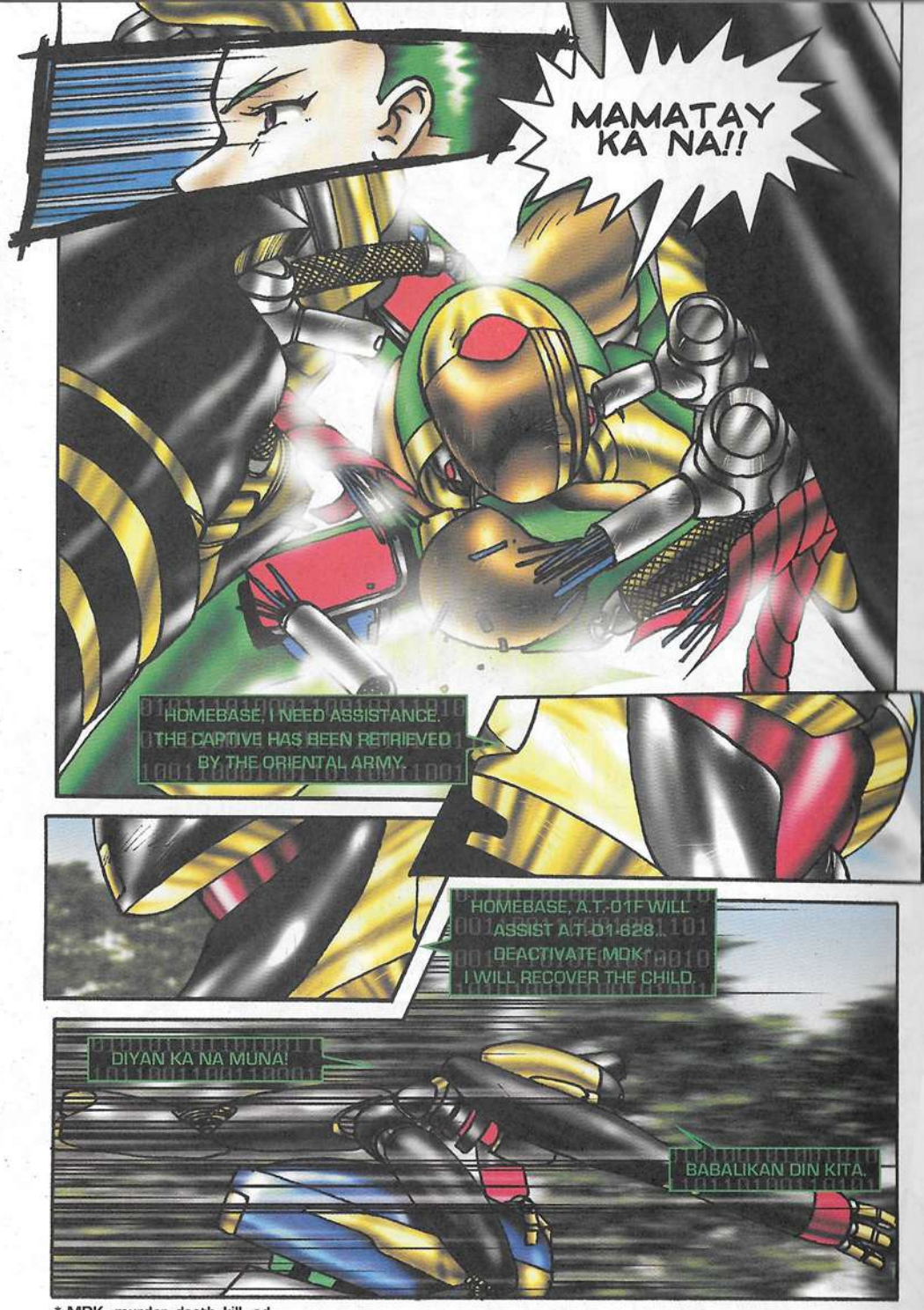
CONTRIBUTORS:
nemo
Leda Esguerra
A. J. Esguerra
Herb Fondevilla

Our sincerest thanks go to the terrorists who generously supplied us with the following: M60 for Memer II, Steyr Aug for IQ40, Commando for Taga-ilog, HE grenades for J.I.O., and the AK47 for Da Bhoss. Pero galit pa rin si Memer II dahil may umubos ng bago niyang hairspray.

TAGA-BADTZ MARU:
A living testament to the hardships and sufferings the Culture Crash Team has to go through just to meet the deadline.

In the meantime, we will try to negotiate terms to re-release a few copies of our back issues through shops like 7-11 convenience stores. Incidentally, try Filbar's. CATS Greenhills, Comic Quest and Powerbooks for back issues.

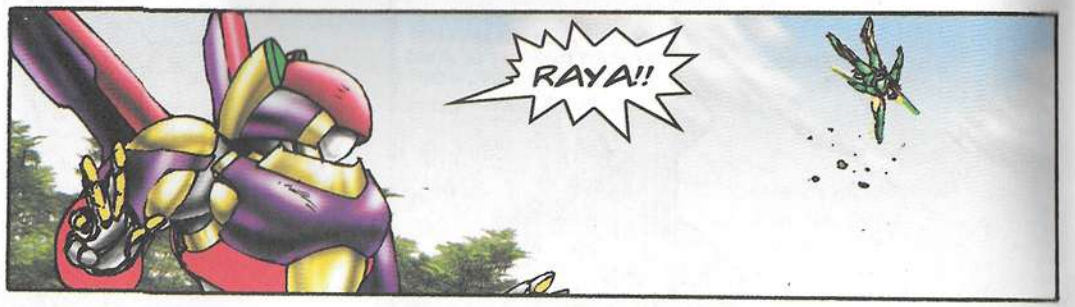
Culture Crash™, Solstice Butterfly™, One Day Isang Diwa™, PASIG™, Cat's Trail™ is published by Culture Crash Comics and J. C. Palabay Ent., Inc. with office at 67 General Ordoñez St. Marikina Heights, Marikina City. Tel. # 942-45-12 to 13. The names, logos and all related characters of this publication are ™ and ©2001 Culture Crash Comics/J.C. Palabay Ent., Inc. and their respective creators. None of this publication may be reproduced or used without written permission from the copyright owner.



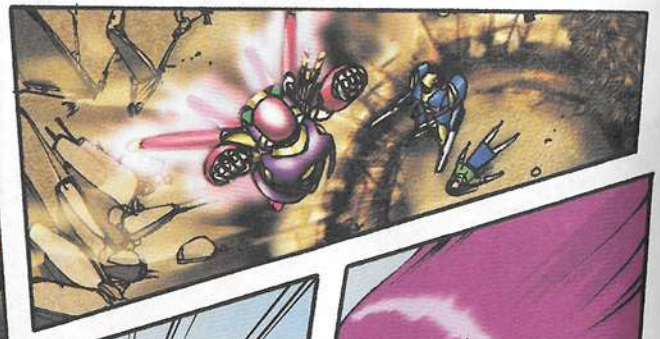
* MDK - murder, death, kill. -ed.

huh?
'LANGHYAKA! BUMALIK KA DITO!
HOY!
SHAOOOM!!
SHAOOOM!!
RAJAH, UMALIS ANG A.T.-OI! MUKHANG PAPUNTA ITO SA INYO.
ISSHO, SUBAYBAYAN MO ANG PROTO-SOLS. TULUNGAN MO SIYA HA?
LING, IKAW NA ANG BAHALA SA PULIS.
OKEY!
OO NA!
HOY ULO! IKAW NA ANG MAGLINIS SA KALAT DIYAN.
EH SHADAP!

RAYA, MAG-INGAT KA! SABI NI ISSHO PARATING DITO ANG ISA PANG A.T.-OI!
...
ILAG!!
SHAOOOM!!
YEAAARGHH!!

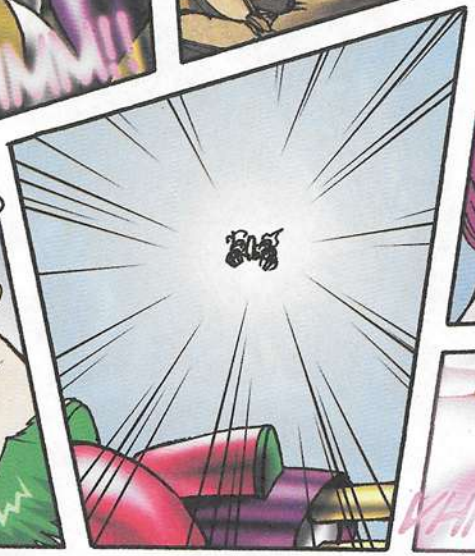

RAYA!!

VHMMMM!!



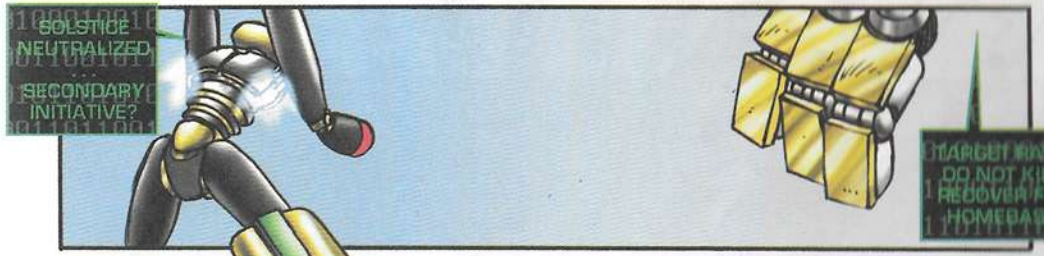
huh?

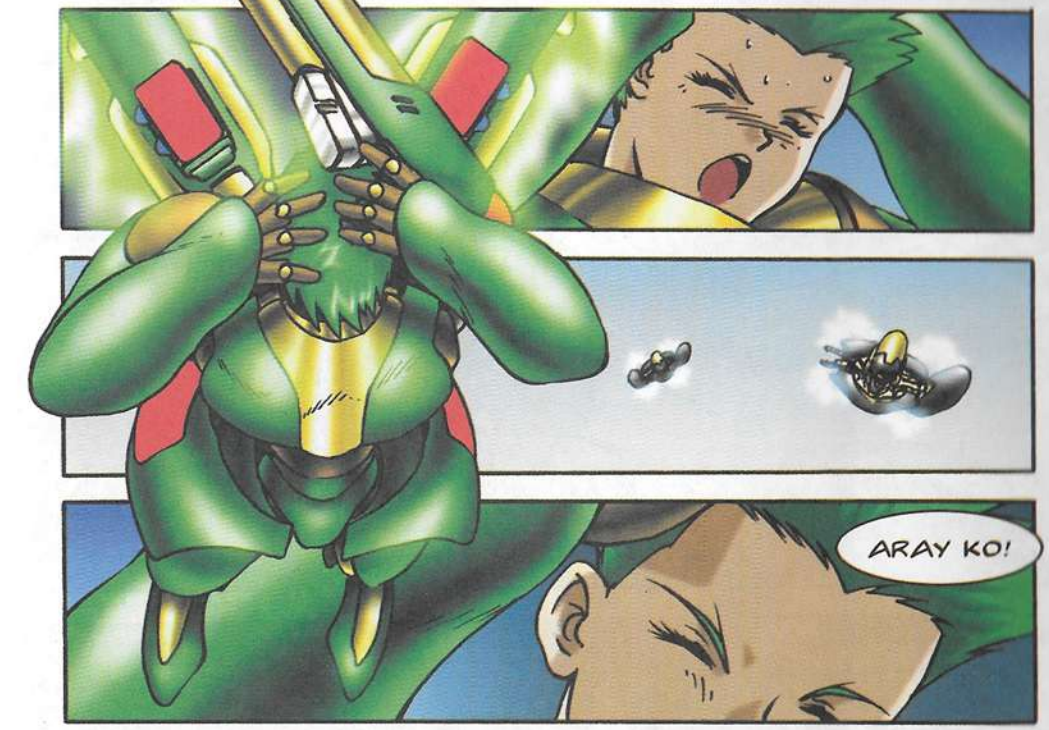
JOANNE...
ILAG...

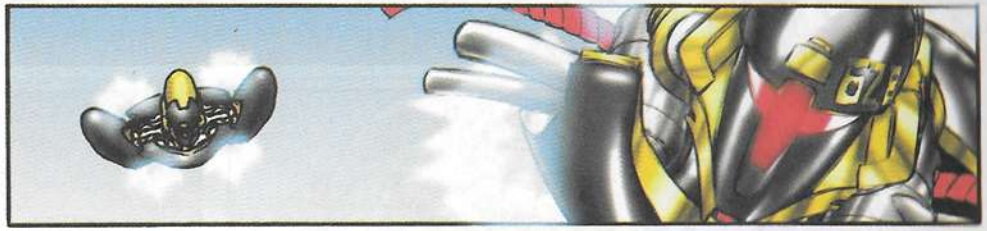


VHMMMM!!

FASH!
UHUMPH!!

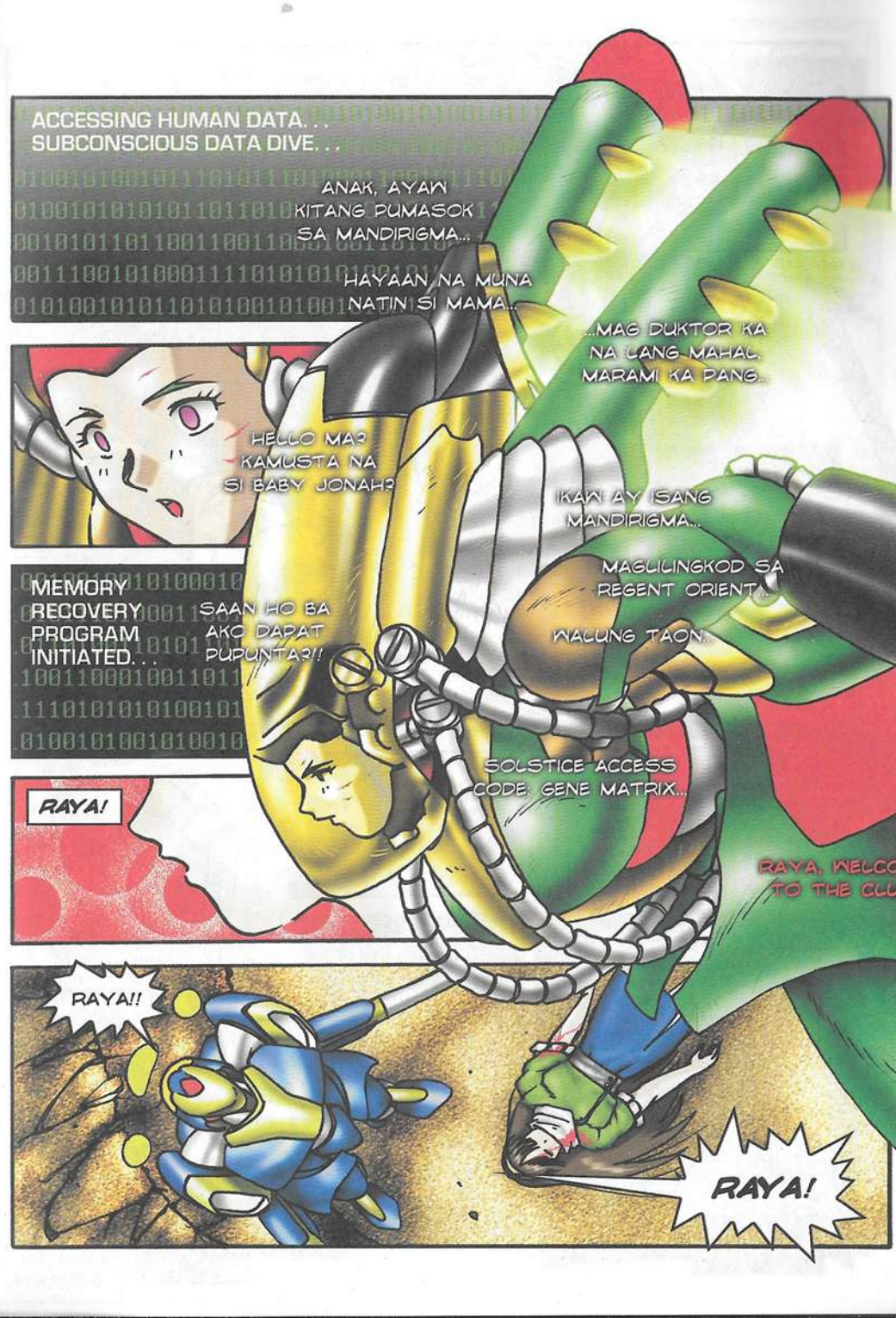

SOLSTICE NEUTRALIZED
SECONDARY INITIATIVE?

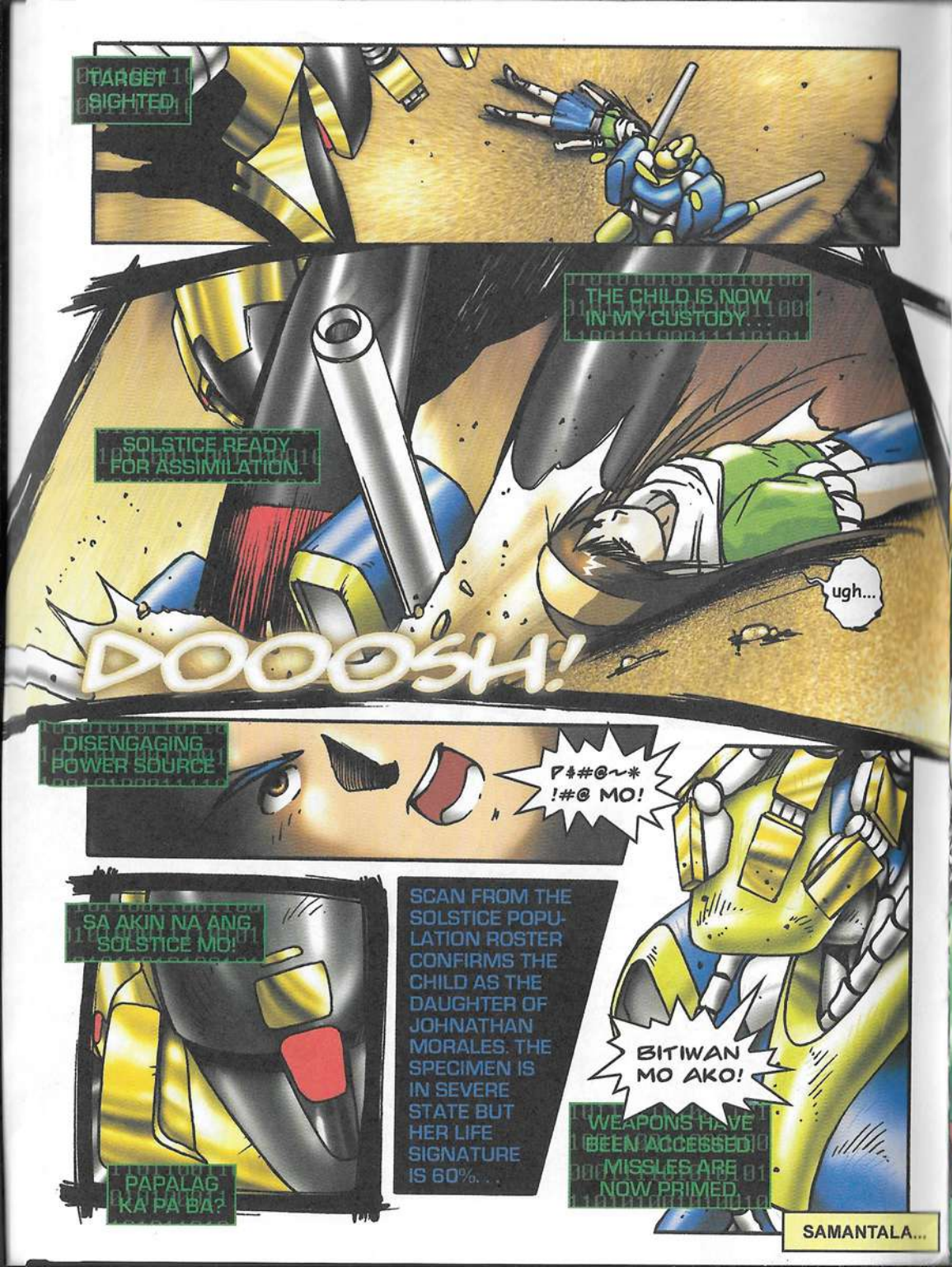

ARAY KO!



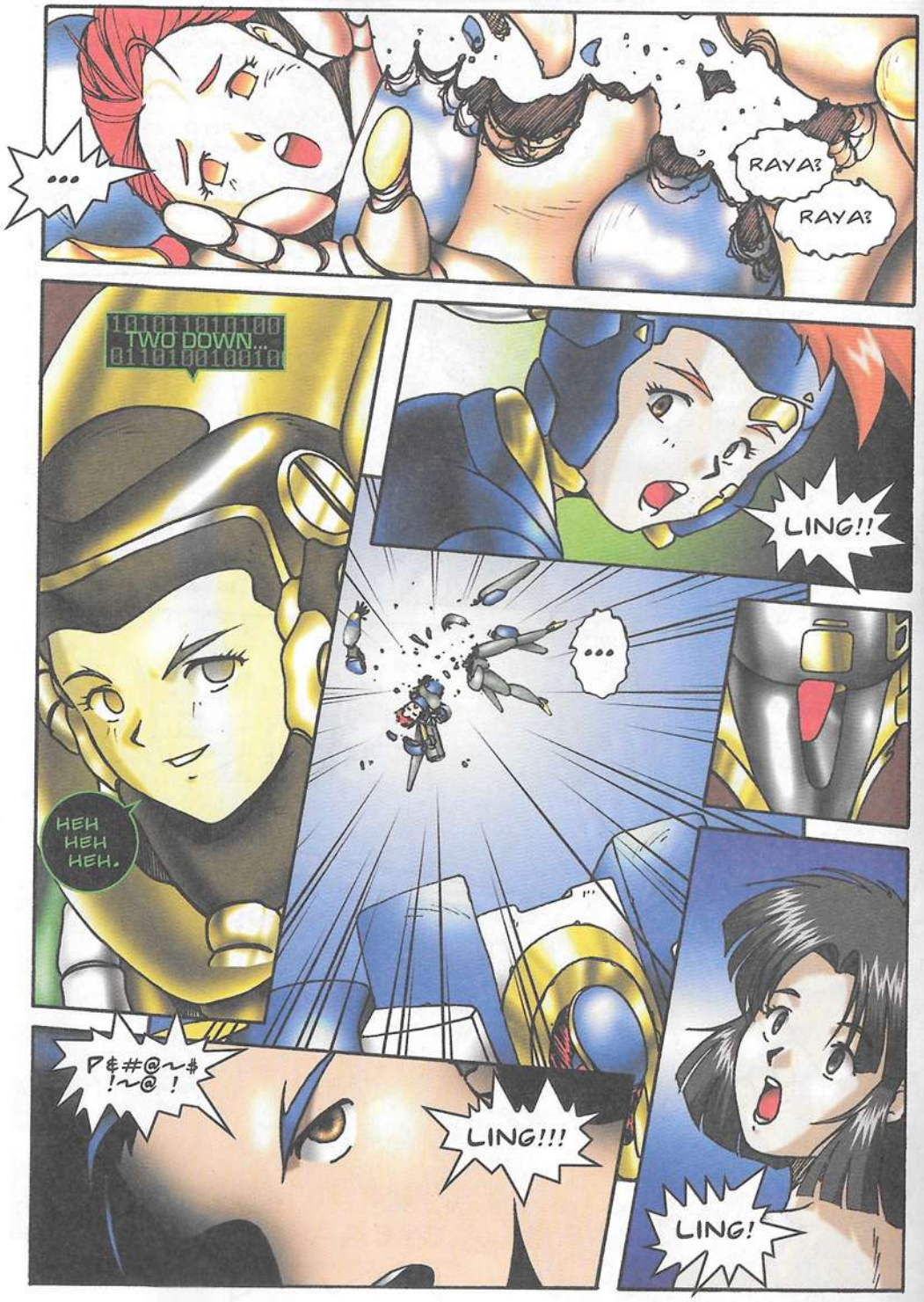
UGHUH!
UGHUH!

PLISH!
PLISH!
PLISH!
SA AKIN KA NA!
AARGKH!
HUMAN ASSIMILATION COMMENCING...
AKK!


ACCESSING HUMAN DATA...
SUBCONSCIOUS DATA DIVE...
ANAK, AYAW KITANG PUMASOK SA MANDIRIGMA...
HAYAAN NA MUNA NATIN SI MAMA...
...MAG DUKTOR KA NA LANG MAHAL. MARAMI KA PANG...
HELLO MA? KAMUSTA NA SI BABY JONAH?
IKAW AY ISANG MANDIRIGMA...
MAGLILINGKOD SA REGENT ORIENT...
MEMORY RECOVERY PROGRAM INITIATED...
SAAN HO BA AKO DAPAT PUPUNTA?!!
WALUNG TAON...
SOLSTICE ACCESS CODE. GENE MATRIX...
RAYA!
RAYA, WELCO TO THE CLU
RAYA!!
RAYA!


TARGET SIGHTED.
THE CHILD IS NOW IN MY CUSTODY...
SOLSTICE READY FOR ASSIMILATION.
ugh...
DOOOSH!
DISENGAGING POWER SOURCE
P$#@~* !#@ MO!
SA AKIN NA ANG SOLSTICE MO!
PAPALAG KA PA BA?
SCAN FROM THE SOLSTICE POPULATION ROSTER CONFIRMS THE CHILD AS THE DAUGHTER OF JOHNATHAN MORALES. THE SPECIMEN IS IN SEVERE STATE BUT HER LIFE SIGNATURE IS 60%...
BITIWAN MO AKO!
WEAPONS HAVE BEEN ACCESSED. MISSLES ARE NOW PRIMED.
SAMANTALA...

BA'T KAYA SILA NANDARAKIP NG MGA BATA NGAYON?
HINDI KO RIN ALAM.
IKA-LIMA NA ANG BABAENG ITO KUNG MAAGAW PA NILA SIYA SA ATIN.
PITO NA KUNG ISASAMA MO YUNG SA ISABELA AT VIGAN.
TALAGA? 'DALI LANG HA.
ISSHO, SI LING ITO. NARINIG MO BA'YON? MALAPIT NA KAMI KAY RAYA. ANG GANDA TALAGA NG MECH NI... ANO NGA PALA ANG PANGALAN MO?
DA PULIS.
YEAH SURE... BASTA, NG PULIS.
SANDALI LANG...
SINO 'YUN?
FRRAAATH!!
FDT!
FDT!
FDT!
FDT!
EYEAARGH!


...
RAYA?
RAYA?
TWO DOWN...
LING!!
...
HEH HEH HEH.
P&#@~$!~@ !
LING!!!
LING!

HALIMAW! UMALIS KA SA TAONG 'YAN!
BAKIT PARA MAY REKLAM
...
NAIS KO SANANG MAKUHA ANG UTAK MO NGUNIT...
MUKHANG MASMAGALING ANG MANDIRIGMANG ITO!
MAMATAY KA NA KUTO!
A.T.-01
TAO
MANDIRIGM
PFANK!!
HUMANDA KA NA!!!
HUH?!
ANONG?!!
KLIK!!

* Solstice Issue 4, p6. -ed.

Full Spectrum
L'Arc~en~Ciel

by Herb Fondevilla

A Tokyo Dome concert sells out within FOUR minutes, double albums which sold over 500 million copies, 21 singles, 8 albums, and 9 compilation videos and still counting, L'Arc~en~Ciel is what you might want to call --- virtually unstoppable. And don't tell me that you're not familiar with their music! Their songs, "Niji" and "Fourth Avenue Cafe" were used as themes in the animé Rurouni Kenshin. Another hit song, "Blurry Eyes" made it as the opening theme song of DNA2. And remember the Toyota commercial, "Passion Road?" The song in that ad was theirs too. In fact, in Japan, songs and images of L'Arc~en~Ciel are everywhere. They're on huge billboards, railway stations, malls, the Internet, and numerous TV commercials like Shiseido (Neo Universe) and Canon (Love Flies). One of their singles, Lose Control --- Shinchoku was also included in the Asian OST release of "Godzilla." Now you might begin to wonder, how could you have ever missed them?

L'Arc~en~Ciel, meaning "rainbow" in French, was conceived in Osaka, Japan. It was formed by Tetsu, in February 1991. Coincidentally, Tetsu is also one of the group's composers (yes, they compose and write all of their songs), and the bass guitarist. Raruku, as they are often called in Japan, has undergone many changes in their 10-year musical career. From band members, to hairstyles, from single to married, from rock to techno. To date, the band members are Tetsu, on bass guitar, Ken on lead guitar, Yukihiro on drums, and Hyde (pronounced as hai-do) on vocals. But just what makes L'Arc such a charismatic force in Japan's j-rock scene?

First, it's their music. L'Arc's music can't be described in one word, nor can it be compared to any other band or singer's music. T is because of their capacity for variety and adaptability. From relaxing rhythms (White Feathers), hard rock (Heaven's Drive), totally romantic (Anata), techno (Larva), or even trop cal (Perfect Blue, Grand Cross version), L'Ar never boring, and will take you to where you want your mood to go.

It's also no big secret that Hyde, the vocal ist, makes other gender-bending wannabes loo like total failures. Something that makes females in Japan drool and go ga-ga over. L'Arc~en~Ciel's ability to change their image i also a big factor. And like Madonna, each change is both refreshing and totally different without being overwhelming.

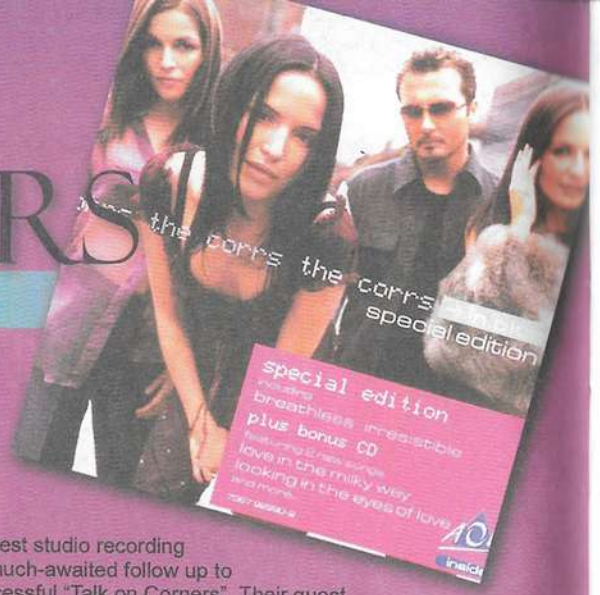
But best of all, L'Arc has pure and simple love for their craft. Watching one of their performances is like being drawn to their passion. And even though you might not understand their lyrics, you can honestly feel it in their music. The members of L'Arc~en~Ciel love what they are doing and it shows.

February 2001 is L'Arc~en~Ciel's 10th year anniversary. For more Raruku info, check out www. Larcentral.net. Or visit their official site (though you need Japanese language support you'd like to read them ^_^), www.larcom.net www.larcenciel.com, and www.larc.yahoo.co. jp.

Send comments, corrections, or violent reactions to hkitsune@yahoo.co.jp. ^_^;

THE CORRS in blue

by A.J. Essguerra



The Corrs
"In Blue Special Edition"
Atlantic Records

1. Breathless
2. Give Me A Reason
3. Somebody for Someone
4. Say
5. All the Love in the World
6. Radio
7. Irresistible
8. One Night
9. All In a Day
10. At Your Side
11. No More Cry
12. Rain
13. Give It All Up
14. Hurt Before
15. Rebel Heart

Special Edition CD
1. Somebody for Someone (acoustic version)
2. No More Cry (acoustic version)
3. Radio (acoustic version)
4. At Your Side (acoustic version)
5. Love In the Milky Way
6. Looking In the Eyes of Love
7. Haste to the Wedding (live at Lansdowne Road)

The Corrs' latest studio recording "In Blue" is the much-awaited follow up to their hugely successful "Talk on Corners". Their quest to conquer the States started with "Talk On Corners"; it sold only 400,00 copies in the U.S. Because of this, the Irish siblings worked with Shania Twain's producer RJ Lange in 3 of their 15 tracks (Irresistible, Breathless and All the Love in the World), making it sound a little more "yankee-ish". The result: "In Blue" is the Corrs' most successful album in the US, which debuted at number 21 in the Billboard charts. The rest of the world has embraced the Corrs music even before the group started their campaign in the States. "In Blue" has sold 4.5 million copies outside the US; their biggest markets in Asia are Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

Expect a sound quite similar to their previous albums if you decide to buy "In Blue". But what really makes this album special is that it shows evidence of a gradual evolution of sound. What used to be strict, traditional Irish pop has now evolved into a more modern, but still Irish pop beat. The best examples of which are "Radio" and "Give Me a Reason." This is actually a good thing because the group managed to offer something new to their fans even if most of the tracks still sound very similar to their previous singles. This is an indication that if you hated the Corrs in "Talk on Corners," you might hate them even more in their latest effort. To those who enjoyed listening to their previous albums, "In Blue" is highly recommended. Watch out for tracks such as "Somebody for Someone" and "Hurt Before" because they follow the tradition of the Corrs old love songs. Another reason for a Corrs fan to buy this album is that it includes a 7-track bonus CD, containing 4 acoustic tracks, 2 previously unreleased singles and a live instrumental performance.

News: In an open letter to their fans dated February 21st, The Corrs said that they would not be performing any gigs till October this year. This is due to Andrea's ear infection. The group said that they were sorry to disappoint their fans. The new concert date in Manila has not been announced while this article is being written.

One Day, Isang Diwa

STORY AND COLOR ASSISTS BY : J.L. PALABAY
ART BY: E.A. DAMASO

KABANATA 5: BUGHAW NA APOY

!
JUN! NANGANGANIB SI CLARISSA!
NASA SHED SIYA! DALIAN MO!
?!
BENJO, TATAKAS AKO!
HUWAG KANG MAG-ALALA, JUN...
...AKO'NG BAHALA SA KANILA!

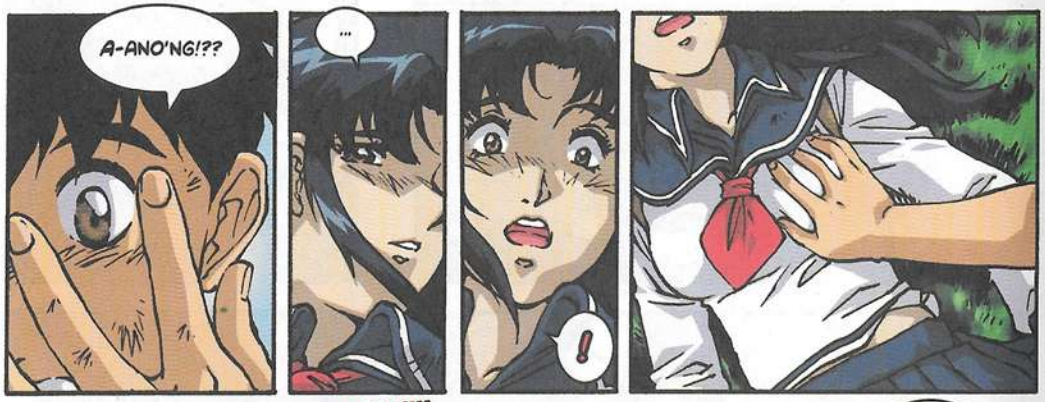
SNAP!
SNAP!
SNAP!
DIWA!!!
AKO'NG BAHALA!!!
Yhoooooo

$#*%!!!
TATAOB TAYO!!!
SKRUTS!
CLARISSA ILAG! 'YAN NA 'YUNG TRUCK SA SCRIPT KO!
JAMES?
!!!
BA-BEEP!
BAHALA NA! BASTA HINDI AKO MAMAMATAY SA ISSUE 5...
SSHHMMMMMM
KA-KRANG!
FA-WHOOSH!

SKRASH!!!
THUMP!
KREESH!
KREESH!

KRAK!
ENG?
ICH
ICH
ICH

UHHH...


A-ANO'NG!??
...
!

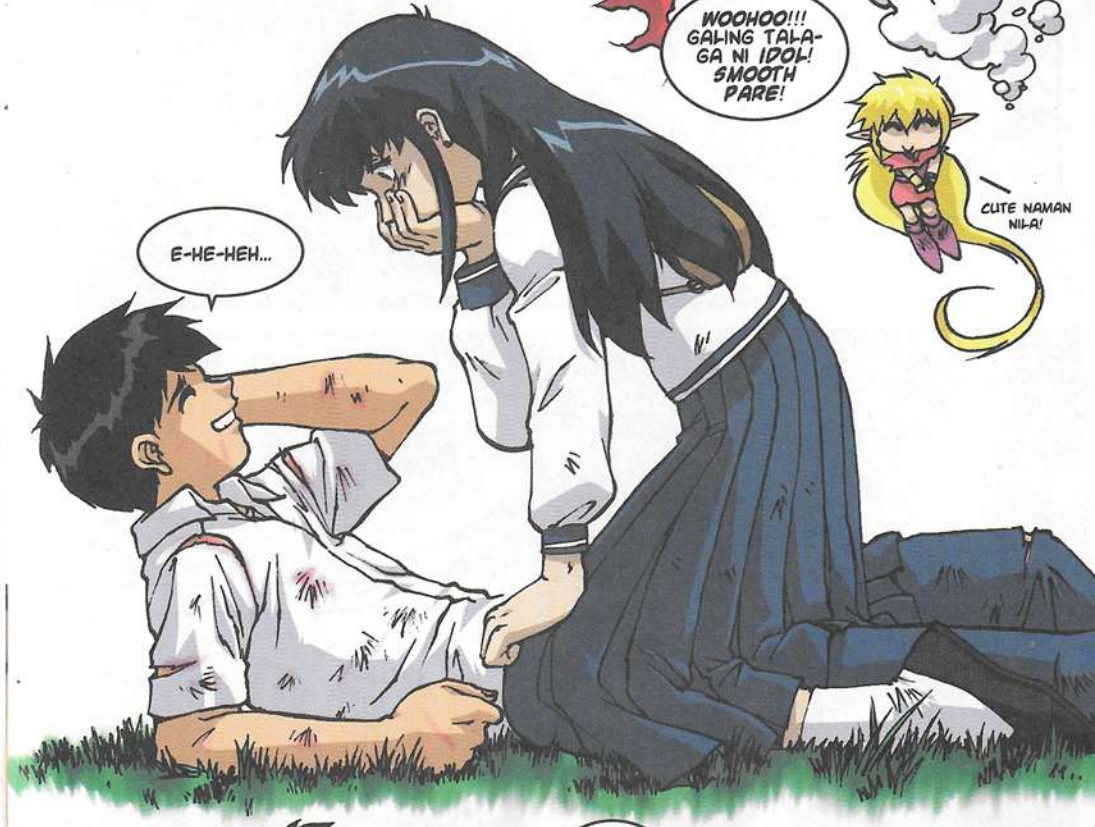
EAAAHHH!!! MANYAK!!!
SLAP!!!
WAK!!!

OOPS.

JUN! JUN! OK KA LANG?
OK LANG AKO... IKAW? OK KA LANG BA?
OO, SALAMAT SA 'YO...

UMMM...
UH-K!

GREAT POSITIONING! JUN MORALES THREEEE POINTS!
JUN! UMAYOS KA UMAYOS KA UMAYOS KAA!!!
WOOHOO!!! GALING TALA-GA NI IDOL! SMOOTH PARE!
CUTE NAMAN NILA!


E-HE-HEH...

UHHH... SALAMAT UH-IT. NASAKTAN KA BA?
OK LANG AKO. MEDYO MASAKIT LANG YATA ANG LIKOD KO...

JUN, NAGDUDUGO YATA ANG LIKOD MO!
MARAMI KANG SUGAT. SAKA BA'T PARANG ME MALA-KING SCAR KA?
AH WALA 'YAN. 'NUNG BATA PA 'KO NIYAN.

"GANUN BA?"

CLARISSA!!!
slch
slch
slch
OK LANG AKO JEDD. SALAMAT KAY JUN.
...

SALAMAT PARE. TERA'T MAGPATINGIN KA SA CLINIC.

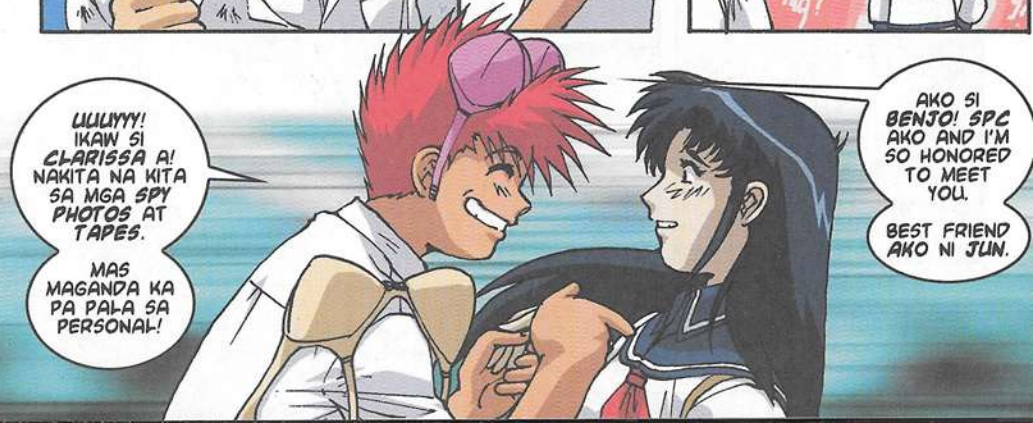
BA'T SIYA NAG-PAPASALAMAT PARA KAY CLARISSA?

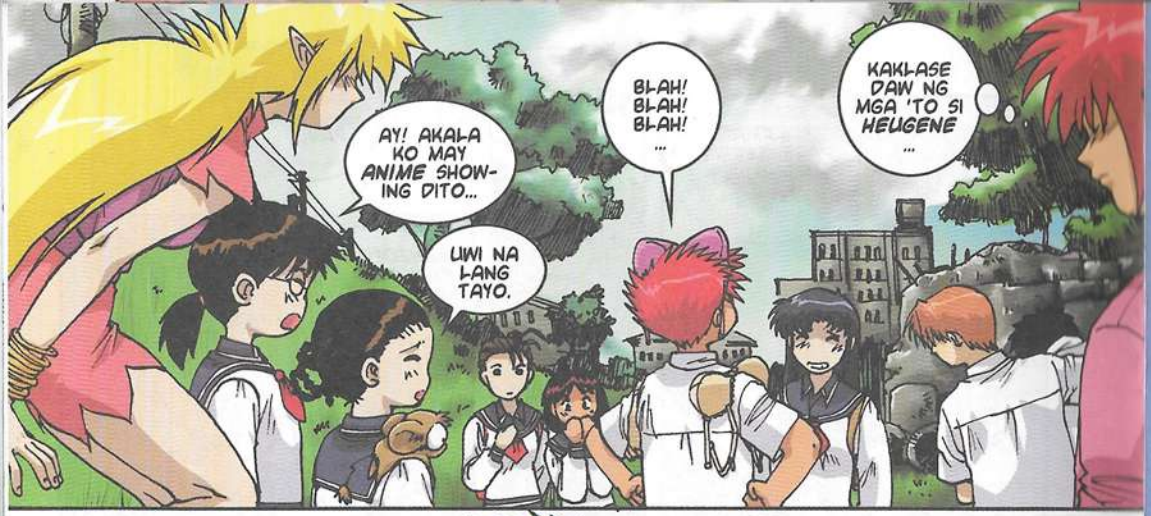
JUN! ANO'NG NANGYARI PARE?
BENJO?!? PAANO KA NAKATAKAS SA SPC!?
SAKA BA'T ME BRA KA ULO MO?
NAKUHA KO D'UN SA SABO NA TRAK, MAHI BENTAHAN NIT 'BA!

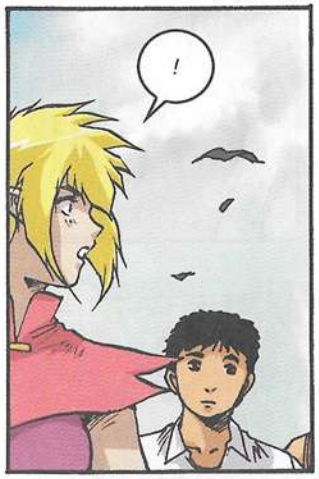
AT YUNG NASA BRASO MO AY...?

AH 'YAN! SPC NA AKO E. HEHEHE!
SPC

!!!
CLARISSA is HERE!
ding!
ding!
ding!


UUUYYY! IKAW SI CLARISSA A! NAKITA NA KITA SA MGA SPY PHOTOS AT TAPES.
MAS MAGANDA KA PA PALA SA PERSONAL!
AKO SI BENJO! SPC AKO AND I'M SO HONORED TO MEET YOU.
BEST FRIEND AKO NI JUN.





KASYA KAYA KAY BENJO BRA N'YA? BA'T PARANG ME MGA HUBONG MAMA SA BACKGROUND? BASTUS NAMAN! AT SINO ANG MAMANG NAKAKUMOT? HINDI NAMAN MALAMIG SA PINAS AH! *ITUTULOY...*

COMICS

DA BHOSS ON HOW WE WRITE DRAW 4

*Sorry about disappointing the people who were looking forward to another art lesson. But you know what? Writing is also an art and in comic book production, it is just as important as the illustrations and colors. ^_^*

Basically speaking this is really where we should have started in the first place. So how does one begin writing a story anyway? There are many ways to do so but I would recommend that you:

1. Start with an idea.
2. Decide on the setting.
3. Explore the probable dilemmas/conflicts.
4. Create the characters.
5. Allow the story to flow and unfold in your mind.
6. Polish up your work.

Now there is no manual on where to get your ideas or message/s you may want to convey. That would be completely up to you. You may have to wait for inspiration to hit you first.

Okay, suppose you were in the bathroom comfortably perched when inspiration suddenly hits you and you get an idea for a story. An MRT of ideas passes by your little noggin, you see the setting and the genre it will fall into, as well as the general conflicts within the story. You may now start creating the appropriate characters for your story. Typically, you first come up with the "hero" of the story before you continue with the antagonist/s. This in itself is full of possibilities. You can come up with more than one hero and/or antagonist. You can even make the protagonist and antagonist the same person!

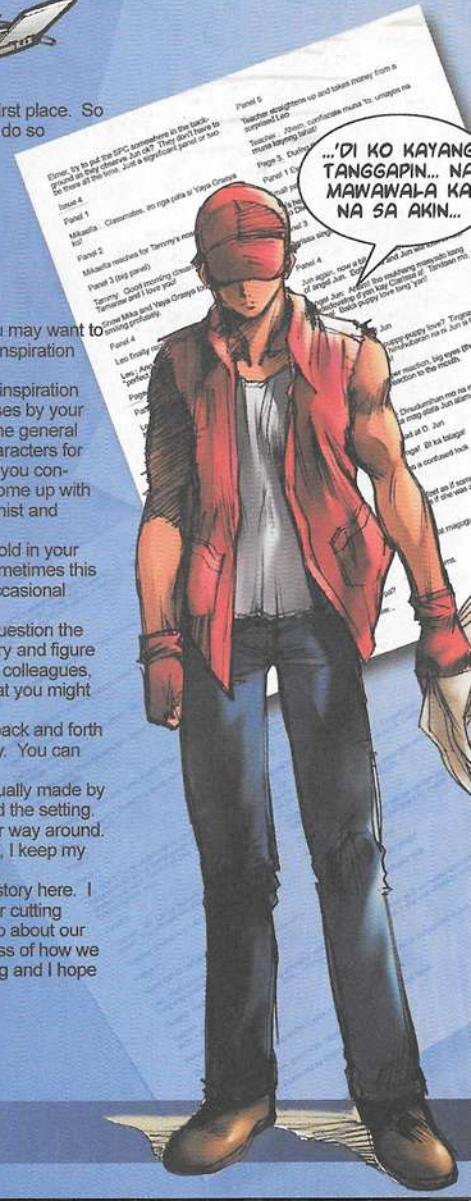
Anyway, once you get a feel for your characters allow the story to unfold in your mind. You will get a better picture of specific conflicts and dilemmas. Sometimes this is the easy way to come up with support or side characters that make occasional appearances.

Finally, polish up your work. Look for inconsistencies and the like. Question the motives of your characters and try to relate all the conflicts within the story and figure out how they might make a proper whole. Ask for opinions from friends, colleagues, advisors and the like. Consider their input and reactions and decide what you might want to change.

Of course there is no straight line in making stories and you may go back and forth with the steps I've told you about. You may even disregard it completely. You can start with characters if you want!

Here's an example of what I mean: most (not all) local movies are usually made by first deciding which actor/s will be in it. Next they decide on the story and the setting. Finally the idea and message comes about. I like to go about it the other way around. I start with the idea, then the story and setting, then the actors. Besides, I keep my old college teachers happy that way.

I've only scratched the surface on how one may go about creating a story here. I am also very much constrained by space, so I apologize for cutting corners. Maybe next time we can discuss how we go about our script and delve more into the pre-production process of how we make our publication. Thanks for listening and I hope this proves useful!



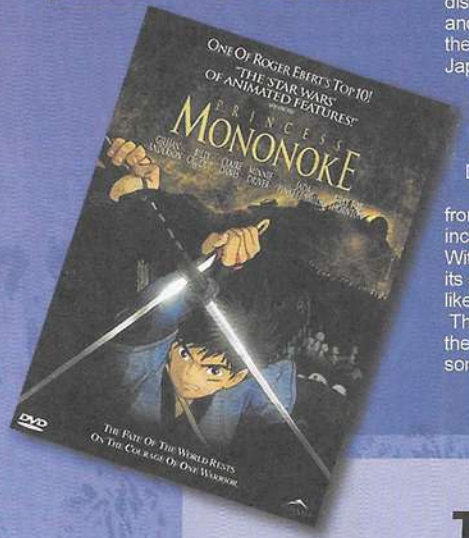
REVIEWS

MONONOKE
ON DISNEY DVD

by nemo

VOICE TALENTS

ASHITAKA	Billy Crudup
JIGO	Billy Bob Thornton
LADY EBOSHI	Minnie Driver
GONZA	John DiMaggio
SAN	Claire Danes
KOHROKU	John DeMita
TOKI	Jada Pinkett Smith
MORO	Gillian Anderson
OKKOTO	Keith David



When word got out that Disney was releasing the DVD version of Princess Mononoke in the states without the original Japanese track, legions of otakus protested. I myself was stupefied with the idea. Why the heck go DVD and disregard the obvious advantage of the medium? That of putting the subbed and dubbed version in one package. To Disney's credit, they listened and in the last few months before its release, they made changes to add the original Japanese track.

I bought my copy a few weeks ago at a local shop in Greenhills and I have no complaints. The video is top-notch and the audio mixing is just excellent! I know not many can afford DVD and may opt for VCDs but I have to digress this to the serious collectors who can afford it: GET THIS DVD!

When I was watching the DVD I was curious as to why I couldn't switch from the Japanese track to the English track on the fly until I realized Disney included two sets of video within the DVD! Now that's using the technology! With all due respect to the skeptics out there, I do believe Disney is out to do its acquisition of the rights to Miyazaki's works justice. And for a masterpiece like Mononoke, I'm glad it's getting the treatment it deserves.

The quality of dubbing was very well done; especially cool since Disney had the clout to get big names. But hey I'm out of space, so just refer to the roster somewhere in this page. =)

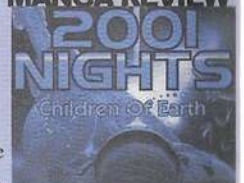
Princess Mononoke ©1997 Nibariki Co. Ltd. Tokuma Shoten Co., Ltd. Nippon Television Network Corporation, Dentsu Inc. Miramax and Studio Ghibli

MANGA REVIEW

A BLAST FROM THE FUTURE PAST

Space Age Soap Opera Dwelling on the Human Psyche

by Taga-ilog



Yukinobu Hoshino's 2001 Nights: Children of Earth is a unique manga in the sense that it is a sci-fi title that deals with the real-life drama of human survival. ('Ala Survivor baga parang yung sa AXN?!) Set in an age when mankind has inhabited the far reaches of the galaxy, the book explores the fantastical possiblities of our universe.

Unlike most titles under its genre, 2001 Nights' stories are very human and touches its readers on a more emotional level rather than leave them lost in all the techno-babble that other mangas tend to dwell in. Here, technology is just a backdrop, space anomalies are the events and humans are the actors. (Heck, who would've thought that getting sucked into a black hole would be so romantic?)

Artwise, the book has the same feel as those of Ryuichi Ikegami's Crying Freeman and believe it or not, at first glance, it looked like something done by traditional Pinoy comic book artists! Yukinobu Hoshino's masterful rendering of scenery and alien landscapes however, is what sets him apart from other manga artists of the same caliber. The technology and costumes of the people in his stories are reminiscent of those 1970's Star Trek movies, which, overall, gives the book a "retro" flavor.

Composed of five serialized stories in its entirety, each complete in itself, the book rewards its readers with a great finale that intertwines all the stories into a graceful whole. There is no main character for the whole book, but the impact that the ending made was so stunning that I had to sit down for a while and stare at a blank wall for a couple of minutes to absorb what I just read. It made me realize just how small and insignificant I was compared to the vastness of the universe.

Anyway, it's a good read and I highly recommend this comic book to people who are not only into manga, but also to those who would appreciate a good story.

ISBN: 1-56931-125-0
Story and Art by: Yukinobu Hoshino
Originally Published by: Futabasha, Inc. Japan
Published in the US by: Cadence Books Inc. 1996
English Adaptation by: Fred Burke and Matt Thorne
Lettering and retouch by: Wayne Truman
Cover Design by: Viz Graphics
Editor: Annette Roman
-$16.95 US $24.25 Canada
-256 pages; black and white; paperback (this volume contains the monthly series 2001 nights #7 [2nd half] through #10 in their entirety)

NAG-UMPISA NA NAMANG UMULAN NG NIYEBE.... PANAHON MULI NG KRIMEN.

PALIBHASA'Y SARADO ANG MGA MINAHAN SA MGA PANAHONG TULAD NITO... KAILANGAN NG MGA TAO NG IBANG MAPAGKAKAKITAAN.

KAYA NAMAN DUMADAMI ANG TAONG NASASAMA SA LISTAHAN NG MGA MANUNUBOS...

PASIG

IKA-LIMANG KABANATA:

ANG MANUNUBOS AT ANG PUSAKAL

Story & Art by: Taga-ilog

SI DANTE KAYA... ANO NA ANG NAGYARI SA KANYA? MAY TATLONG LINGGO NA RIN SIMULA NANG UMALIS SIYA SA BAHAY...

MEDYO NAHIRAPAN AKONG IPALIWANAG KINA TRISHA AT MINA ANG BIGLA NIYANG PAG-ALIS. GALIT PA RIN YATA SILA SA AKIN HANGGANG NGAYON.

HMPF... BAKIT KO BA INIISIP IYON?! TRABAHO! TRABAHO! KAILANGAN KONG HULIHIN ANG BAGO KONG TUTU-BUSIN!
DITO...
A-ANONG?!
AKO BA ANG HINAHANAP MO, MISS?
PASIG MINING
BALITA KO'Y NATUNUGAN MONG NAGLALABAS KAMI NG SIGNO MULA DITO SA PASIG... HINDI KO LANG ALAM NA NAPAKAGANDA PALA NG MAGIGING MANUNUBOS KO.
VRRRR
SAYANG, PERO KAILANGAN MO NANG MAMATAY...
BAKA GUSTO MONG MAG-DATE MUNA TAYO...

TAPOS KA NA!!!
PASENSYA NA PERO...
SHF
...HINDI KITA TYPE, EH.
PASIG MINING
ANAK NG... 'WAG KANG MALIKOT!!!
HA!
PASIG MINING

BKAH
KRGG SHUH

PINK
TSHHHHHHH

P@$%+!!!
BA-BEEP
BA-BEEP
BA-BEEP
BA-BEEP
AAAHHHHH!!!
BHOOOM

OOMPH....
CUTE KA NA SANA, PERO...

HEH...

ANO?!
BAKIT 500 PISO NA LANG?! AKALA KO BA P200,000 ANG TUBOS SA UGOK NA ITO?
FW
SNAP

KINALTAS NA DIYAN SA KITA MO 'YUNG PAGPAPA-AYOS SA NASIRA MONG MAKINA.

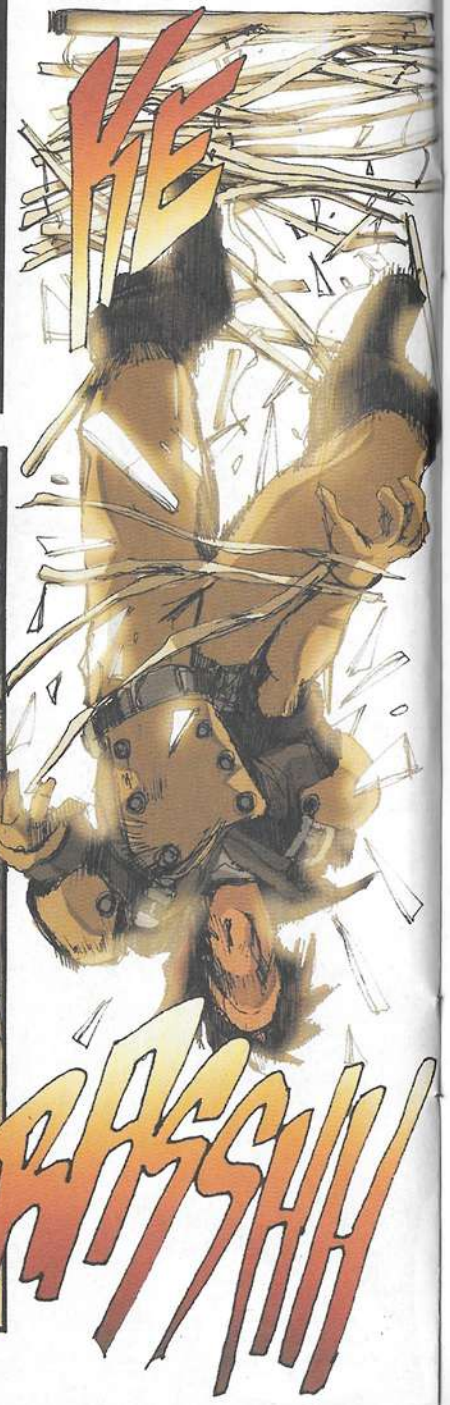
PASALAMAT KA NGA'T MAY NATIRA PA EH... KUNG NAG-KATAON, ABUNADO PA KAMI...
TSHH

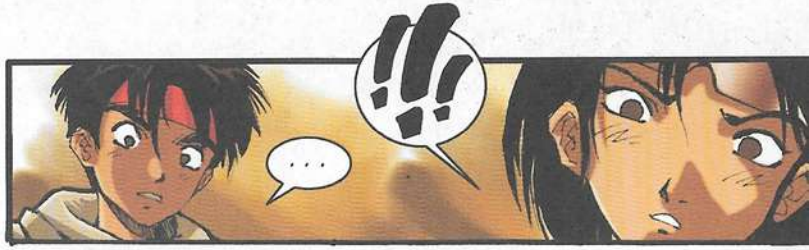
ANG PROBLEMA KASI SA 'YO MINA, MASYADO KANG NAGTIYA-TIYAGA SA MGA TRABA-HONG MAY MALIIT NA TUBOS! BA'T 'DI MO NA LANG ITULOY ANG PAGHA-HANAP MO KAY DANTE?
PASIG
BALITA KO TUMAAS NANAMAN ANG PATONG SA ULO NIYA...

HOY! BABAE! BIHSN MO D'YAN! KAI-LANGAN KONG MAG-C.R!!!
NAGSASAYANG KA LANG NG PAGOD D'YAN SA MGA WALANG KUWENTANG KRIMINAL NA PINAG-HUHUHUH MO.

M-MASYADONG MAILAP ANG TAONG TINUTUKOY MO... AT ISA PA, MUKHANG GINAGAWA LANG TAYONG MGA BERDUGO NIYA. NI WALANG NAKASULAT SA DATOS NIYA TUNGKOL SA NALABAG NIYANG BATAS.
WANTED
MEMER II &
MEMER

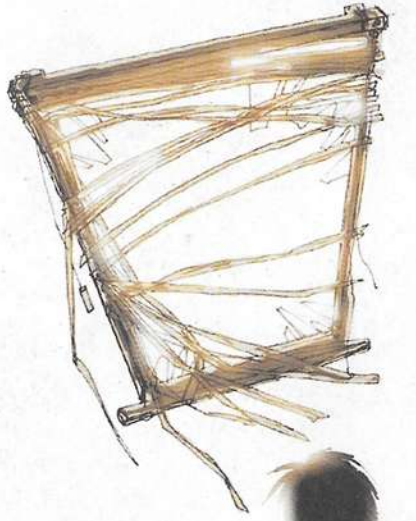
MANLINLUBOS TAYO MINA... HINDI MGA PULIS. ANG PINAGKAIBA LANG NATIN SA MGA MERSENARYO AY WALA TAYONG SINUSUNOD NA AMO.
KAYA KALIMUTAN MO NA 'YANG PRINSIPYO MO KUNG GUSTO MO PANG KUMITA...
HINDI NAMAN BASTA-BASTA NA LANG BABAGSAK ANG GRASYA SA HARAPAN MO...

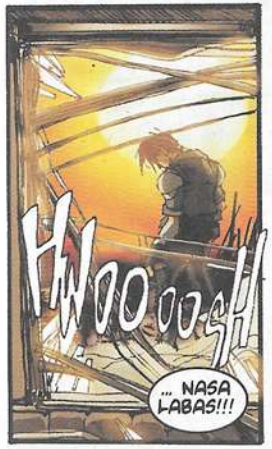

KE
RRRSHH


!!
...

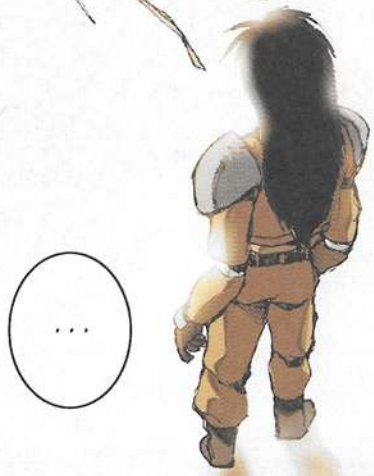
UUHHNNN...

AYOS KA LANG?!
S-SI DANTE...




HWOOOOSH
... NASA LABAS!!!

D-DANTE...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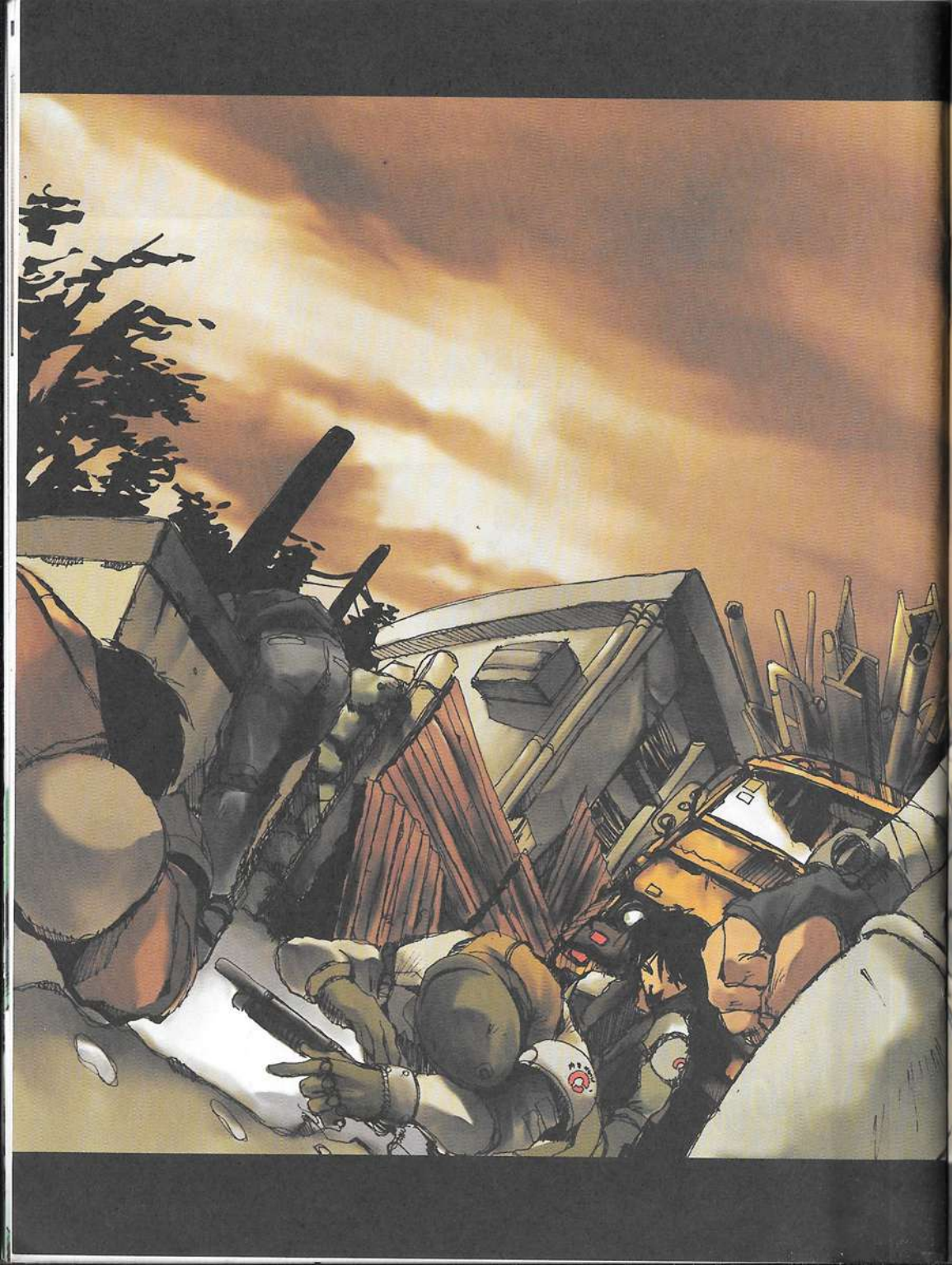


HEHEHE... TAMANG-TAMA! MATAGAL NA RIN AKONG HINDI NAKA-KAKUHA NG MALAKI-LAKING TUBOS!
DEPOSIT YOUR FIREARM

UNA-UNA LANG MGA PARE! SA 'KIN NA ANG ULO NI DANTE!!!
H-HINDI...

TMP TMP TMP

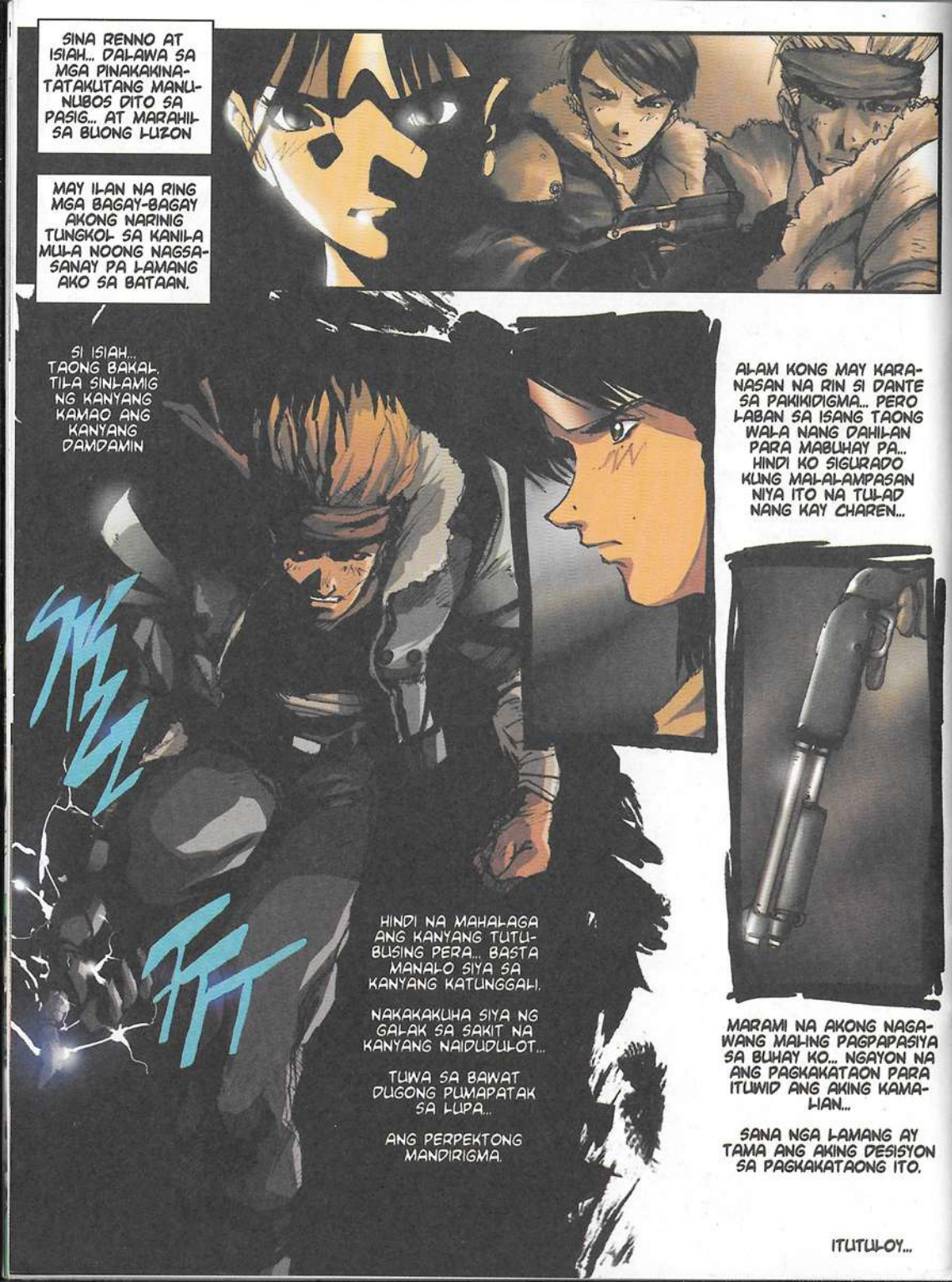
!!

HEP, HEP... HANGGANG D'YAN NA LANG KAYO... SA AMIN NA ANG ULO NG ESCLABONG ITO!!!
O BAKA NAMAN GUSTO N'YO MUNANG PAGLABANAN NATIN KUNG SINONG TUTUBOS SA KANYA...

HMPF... MAY ARAW DIN KAYO...
HINTEK! NAUNAHAN NANAMAN TAYO NG DALAWANG BUWAYANG IYAN!

O, P'ANO DANTE?! UMPISAHAN NA BA NATIN?
BIHSAN MO LANG KUYA, NANG MAKAPAG-HAPUNAN TAYO NG MAAGA-AGA... MEDYO NAGLULUTOM NA KASI AKO EH...

LIMANG MINUTO... AYOS NA BA 'YON ' TOL?!
AYOS.



FAN MANGA

Entry: Marissa....., Isa Bang Biktima?.....

Response: Fascinating, simply fascinating. Marissa: a woman in college who hides her unusually excessive beauty due to past traumatic experiences. Internal conflict brews inside her after she receives money from her father; should she buy stuff and get a make-over or just stay in low-profile? The story reaches a climax, THEN...

Lucia, parang awa mo na! Ano ang susunod na mangyayari? Grabe! You really got the CCCom touch... BITIN!!! Ang galing ng storytelling mo. You should improve on the consistency of your artwork though. Nawawala ang quality kasi ng drawing mo banda huli pero all in all, ang galing mo! Kamaganak ba kita? Beltran ka talaga! Whoooh!

MARISSA... by: Lucia Beltran

Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur

COMIC LETTER by: Jennifer Mansay

Concepcion I, Marikina City

This is our very first manga letter. Boy, were we entertained! Jef, you really know how to make a letter more interesting.

I like the cute artwork and the dynamic panelling. I'm sure you can still improve on it though. I also noticed that you have a good idea of perspective (as shown below). You never fail to impress...

Overall, I'd say that you DO have a chance of becoming a cartoonist. Keep practicing and maybe someday we'll be reading YOUR stuff.

By the way, you don't have candy pink hair by any chance...?

Wow! Great work here M! I like the line textures your inking and the dynamic shots and poses of yo characters. It made me want to read on and see wh happens next! Very smooth transitions between panels... but it looked a little messy because there were no panel boxes to separate the individual sce Try drawing them from time to time, I guarantee, y like the results!

Excellent fight scene! The armored Royal Guard were way too cool and the way Tetsuya trashed the just blew me away!

UNTITLED by : M.Q. De Vera

Silay City, Negros Occ.

NOKIA 9210

by nemo

"The Nokia 9210 Communicator is a significant advance toward the mobile information society, combining many key elements of third generation technology such as a high-resolution color display, high speed mobile e-mail, a new user interface, and multimedia capabilities like full color video clips."

-taken from the Nokia website.

Geez, everything keeps getting hi-tech these days! The fine lines between cell phones, PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant) and laptops are just getting thinner and thinner. But then again, this convergence in communications and technology is exactly what many people in the industry are envisioning.

I think the new Nokia 9210, along with the Motorola Accompli and the cell phone adapter for the Handspring and Palm series PDAs are a great step in realizing this vision. But the real difference here is how they are approaching this convergence of technologies.

With the cell phone adapter for the PDAs and Motorola Accompli, they are first combining PDA technology and cell phone technology. With the Nokia 9210, as with the previous 9XXX series, it's more on laptop and cell phone technology.

Okay, so now you're either a business-minded person or a kid with lots of money who just loves the latest stuff in technology. What's so good about this phone? Okay get this: it has a 43.2 kbps modem, 4096 color hi-res monitor, supports several photo and video files, has 14 MB of memory for applications, 2MB expandable up to 16 MB user memory, 8 MB of SD-RAM, 32-bit ARM9-based RISC CPU, can be connected to a supported video camera, can send/receive fax, etc.

Software and compatibility issues you say? It supports mainstream programs like Microsoft Outlook Express, Powerpoint, Excel, Scheduler, Lotus Notes, Organizer and the like. It's also open for third-party software developers so you can expect more to come.

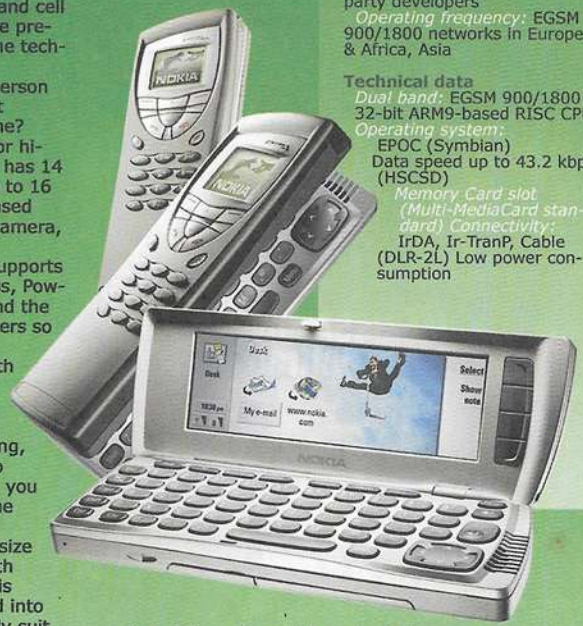
If you're a gear head who just loves to fiddle with newest technology, this phone is for you. Plus it's a Nokia, not that we're promoting them, but let's face it, everyone knows that their phones are the easiest to personalize here. Can't say with the casing, but in terms of ring tones and all, you can expect to get a lot from this model. If you can afford the bill, you could probably try lots of stuff with this phone on the Internet too!

Of course there is a downside here and I emphasize on two: size and price. This phone is a monster both figuratively and literally. I mean how the heck is this gonna fit in your jeans? (Unless you're a homey and into hip-hop) There is the belt-strap but it doesn't exactly suit the ladies too well does it? A lot of women who can afford this phone will probably pass it up because of the size.

Getting a sexy phone like an 8850 or 8210 and a separate a Palm V is probably more fashionable and better suited to the opulent businesswomen out there. This particular phone seems to be targeting guys anyway, with all that "boys with toys" motto.

Availability: Europe & Africa, Asia in the first half of 2001
Weight: 244 g
Dimensions: 158 x 56 x 27 mm
Talk time: 4 - 10 h
Standby time: up to 230 h
Key features: Full-color screen with 4096 colors, Mobile email, Word, Spreadsheet, Presentation viewer, High speed WWW and WAP, Mobile multimedia.
Operating system: Symbian (EPOC) platform, open for 3rd party developers
Operating frequency: EGSM 900/1800 networks in Europe & Africa, Asia

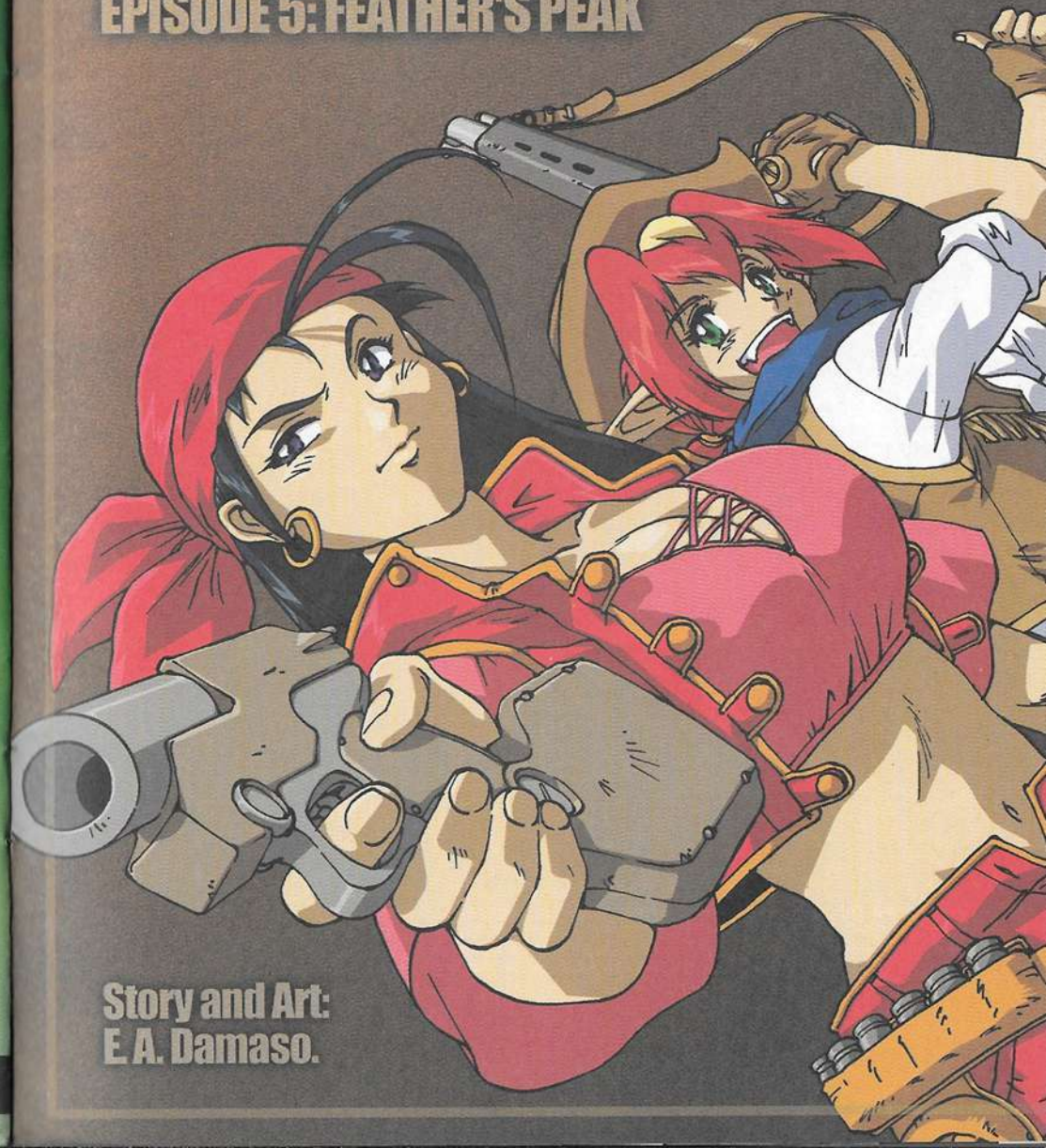
Technical data
Dual band: EGSM 900/1800
32-bit ARM9-based RISC CPU
Operating system:
EPOC (Symbian)
Data speed up to 43.2 kbps (HSCSD)
Memory Card slot (Multi-MediaCard standard) Connectivity:
IrDA, Ir-TranP, Cable (DLR-2L) Low power consumption



Ah, but the universal issue here is price isn't it? Even if you are loaded with cash this is still going to be a buy that would require a lot of thought. Why not opt with the separate phone and Palm right? It's probably still going to be cheaper overall. Well that's really not my business anymore that part's up to you. For people like us who can't afford this phone, it was still an interesting read wasn't it? Um... right? Hello? People?

Cat's Trail

EPISODE 5: FEATHER'S PEAK



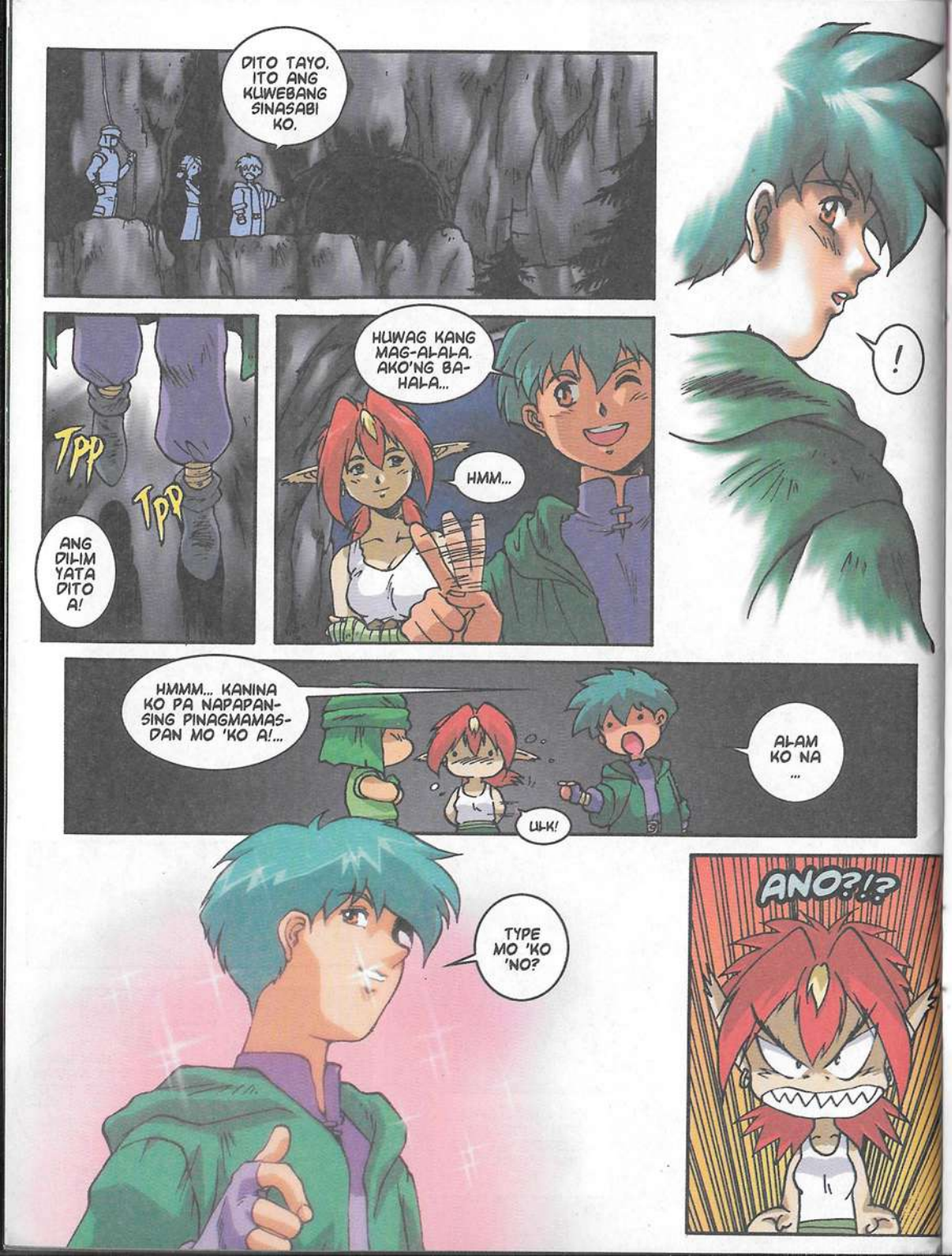
Story and Art:
E.A. Damaso.

"...HINDI PANGKARANIWANG TAO ITONG NAKILALA NAMIN. BIGLA-BIGLA NAMING MAKIKITA SA GUBAT NG ***FEATHERWOODS***, ILILIGTAS KAMI SA PAMAMAGITAN NG MAHIKANG ILUSYON... HINDI NAMAN SIYA MUKHANG SALAMANGKERO..."

"...TAPOS KUNG UMASAL SIYA'T KUMILOS PARANG KABISADO NIYA ANG LUGAR NA ITO. PATI ANG TUNGKOL SA MAHIWAGANG DAMBUHALANG ***RAGNAROK*** E ALAM NIYA. PAANO NIYA NALAMAN ANG TAMANG ORAS NG PAGDATING NITO SA GUBAT? AT BAKIT ALAM DIN NIYA ANG PATUTUNGUHAN NITO?..."

"BUKOD PA DOON, BIHASA SIYA SA PAGGAMIT NG MARAMING BAGAY TULAD NUNG ***GRAPPLING HOOK***. NAKUHA NIYA ANG TAMANG TIYEMPO KAHIT SOBRANG LAKAS ANG IHIP NG HANGIN. TAPOS AKALA KO KAMI LAMANG SA ***KATIPUNAN NG MGA MAGNANAKAW*** ANG NABIBIGYAN NG GANUONG KLASENG PAGSASANAY. SAAN NIYA KAYA ITO NATUTUNAN?..."

"...SINO KA BA?"


DITO TAYO. ITO ANG KUWEBANG SINASABI KO.
TPP
TPP
ANG DILIM YATA DITO A!
HUWAG KANG MAG-ALALA. AKO'NG BAHALA...
HMM...
!
HMMM... KANINA KO PA NAPAPANSING PINAGMAMASDAN MO 'KO A!...
ALAM KO NA ...
ULK!
TYPE MO 'KO 'NO?
ANO?!?

NAGBI-BIRO LANG NAMAN E! ITO NAMAN O...
TARA NA NGA POLARIS!
TSK... TSK... KAWAWANG BATA.
SANDALI! DITO LANG KAYO. MADILIM NA ANG LAGUSAN DITO...
HA?
DITO BA PINANGANAK ANG UNGGOY NA 'TO?
chsshh!
HETO NA 'KO.
ABA'T! SAAN NANGGALING 'YAN?
DITO NGA PIN NGANA 'TO...
BLAG!
HETO PA O! MGA TULUGAN AT KUMOT.
MAGPAHINGA MUNA TAYO DITO. HINDI BA'T PAGOD KAYO?
SINO KA?...
...MAY ILANG ORAS PA NAMAN TAYO BAGO SUMIKAT ANG ARAW...
FFF
FFF
FFF
UMMM...
AKO NGA PALA SI BUTLER. KINAGALAK KO KAYONG MAKILALA ...
...AIRE POLAR

HAAAA?!?
KILALA MO KAMI ?!?

ESPIYA KA BA? TAO KA BA? ANO KA?!!

E-HEH-HEH... TEKA LANG...

DAPAT NA YATA TAYONG MAGKALINAWAN...
KRAK!

A-ANO... SANDALI... AAA... MAGPAPALIWANAG AKO...
UMM...
PUWEDENG HUMINAHON MUNA KAYO?

GRRRRRRRRRR!!!
SIGE, MAGSAHITA KA...!!!

"DI BA HULI NYO KONG INIWAN SA MANIRA? DAHIL SA KAGUSTUHAN KONG MAKILALA KAYO NG HUSTO, NAG-ISIP AKO NG PARAAN PARA MASUNDAN KAYO..."

"MAKALIPAS NG ILANG MINUTO, DUMATING NAMAN 'TONG SHERIFF POPPY. NAGTATANONG SIYA SA BUONG LUNGSOD TUNGKOL SA INYO..."
"TAPOS NAKABUO AKO NG PLANO..."

"MABILIS ANG MGA NORTH STALLIONS AT SIGURADONG SILA LANG ANG MAKAKAHABOL SA INYO... KAYA TINURO KO ANG DIREKSYON NA INYONG TINUNGO SA ISANG KONDISYON..."
"...DAPAT ISAMA NILA AKO."

"NAHULI NGA NILA KAYO SA ISANG AMBUSH . PERO LUMAYO NA AKO BAGO PA NANGYARI 'YUN..."
AY HUDAS!

"BUTI NA LANG AT M
DUMAAN NA CARAVA
NA PATUNGONG FEAT
ERWOODS..."
"SUMABIT NA LANG AKO."

PAANO MO NALAMAN NA DADALHIN KAMI SA FEATHERWOODS?

SA TOTOO, HULA LANG ANG GINAWA KO. PERO FEATHERWOODS ANG SUSUNOD NA PINAKAMALAPIT NA LUGAR MULA SA PINAGDAKPAN SA INYO.
IMPRAKTIKAL NAMAN KUNG BABALIK PA SILA SA MANIRA...

TAPOS SINAGIP KO KAYO AT HETO'T MAGKAKASAMA TAYO NGAYON!
HE...
HE...
HE...
HE...
HE...
HE...
HE...?

NGEK!
BRAK!
IKAW PALA'NG MAY KAGAGAWAN NG PAGKADAKIP SA 'MIN EH!
TEKA LANG. NAKAKAHALATA NA 'KO AH! BAKIT BA LAGI AKONG NASA-SAPAK? MASAKIT NA AH!
ITULOG NA NGA NATIN 'TO...
A...
OO NGA. BUKAS NA LANG ULI, LAMPA!
"AIREE COLLETTE..."
SI-SINO'NG?...
"...HINDI PA TAYO TAPOS..."
IKAW NA NAMAN?!?
"HE-HE!"
UMMPHH!...
BA'T HINDI AKO MAKA-HINGA?...
HINDI BA'T SINABI KONG AKIN KA?
SINO KA BA?!? T-TIGILAN MO NA 'KO!!! AYOKO NA!!!
SHRIIP
HFF... HFFF... HFF...

UMMM...
HA?!?
HUPS!
MAGANDANG UMAGA!!!

NGEK! INIWAN NA NAMAN NILA AKO !!!
O HINDEEEE!!!
SAAN KAYA SILA NAGPUNTA? HINDI NILA ALAM ANG PANGANIB SA LUGAR NA 'TO...
HFF...
HFFFF...
HFF...
HFF...

HINDI NAMAN NILA GINAMIT 'YUNG LUBID SA PAGBABA...
...AT MASYADONG MATARIK ANG BANGIN NA 'TO PARA BUMABA SILA NANG WALANG GAMIT ...
MALABO DING UMAKYAT ULI SILA DAHIL NANDOON ANG RAGNAROK ...
MAHIRAP 'TO!!!
NAWALA ANG ILAWAN! SIGURADO KONG TINAHAK NILA ANG TUNNEL PABABA...
"...DAPAT KO SILANG MAHANAP BAGO SILA MAPAHAMAK!..."
HMM...
WOWEE!!! ANG LAKI PALA NG TUNNEL NA 'TO.
ANO SA TINGIN MO, POLARIS? MAY KAYAMANAN KAYA DITO?

OY! TUMIGIL KA NGA SA PAGLALAWAY MO SA KAYAMANAN...
HUUUU!!! AT IKAW HINDI KA MAHILIG?
MAS MATINO NAMAN AKO SA 'YO!
RRRRRR
ANO KAYA ANG MANGYAYARI SA ATING MGA BIDA?
MAABUTAN PA KAYA SILA NI BUTLER?
AT SINO O ANO ANG NAGMAMASID SA KANILA SA DILIM?
AT NASAAN NA KAYA SILA SHERIFF POPPY AT ANG KANYANG MGA TAUHAN?
SUNDAN ANG SUSUNOD NA KABANATA!
HOY! BUHAY NA ANG NILULUTO MO...
ITUTU

Cat's Trail Extra

Because the CC staff has been receiving overwhelmingly positive response from it's readers, we hired a professional spy to scour the Metropolis to find, hunt, and bring to light comments of most offensive nature to us. Lest our staff get over-bloated heads and start asking for more money, or more technically speaking: a raise!

OK, so someone just passed these to us from overheard conversations, but hey, us getting a spy sounded impressive didn't it? Like we have extensive resources and all that! (Yeah right!)

So without further ado, here are.

REASONS WHY THEY HATE CULTURE CRASH:

"People don't buy Culture Crash because of the storyline, it's because of the artwork... they rarely realize the beauty of the plot."

I'm not sure if this is a completely negative comment. On one hand, we may interpret the person as saying that our great plot is being overlooked, on the other hand, the person may be saying that our plot sucks and that we are only skin deep. If this comment pertains to the former, thanks! If it pertains to the latter, then please give us time, we are only five issues old. Also, it is a given that great artwork is what initially attracts a reader, but it is the story that keeps them buying further issues. Also, if they are not yet pissed with our track record with regards to scheduled releases ^_^;.

"Why are our own Filipino artists killing our culture by promoting anime, what happened to works like Pugad Baboy? Can nothing original be made today?"

In my personal opinion, we have presented the Filipino culture in a most original manner. By combining our preferred art style with the Filipino language and original Filipino-made story. In this context, we are using the popular Japanese manga/anime style to promote our own culture to an audience who prefers this style. After all, we are also showing that Filipinos have the capacity to come up with works in league or at par with their foreign counterparts. A big claim yes, but response so far is very much consistent with this idea. In fact, an American-born Filipino reader has already claimed CC has helped rekindle his appetite to learn Filipino. In connection, some have also said that they never thought that learning about their own culture could be so cool. I think those facts alone say a lot. You also cannot deny the obvious fact that anime is presently part of Philippine pop culture. We sometimes forget that pop culture, is also part of the Filipino culture. If we were trying to kill the Filipino culture, which we're not, then we're doing a lousy job.

With all due respect though, I personally find PMJR's Pugad Baboy art style fresh and have great admiration for the man. He has one of the most distinct personal art style I have seen.

"I thought Fine Arts was supposed to be something creative and original? Then why are they still making something so stereotypical?"
"STOP IMITATING AND START CREATING!"

We usually base our characters from our unique past experiences, people we've known and from works we have been exposed to. Consciously or subconsciously we take from these. Similarities may arise, I believe, because people, no matter from what country, time or culture, are essentially the same. All of us after all, are only human.

Fine Arts, is also said to be a means of expressing a stereotypical idea, in an original and creative way, as well as a form of personal expression. As creators, we are, as I have already mentioned, only human, and have essential similarities with other people. But at the same time, there are enough factors that make us unique.

Yes, we copied characters from popular anime. I asked Memer to create Clarissa from Misato. I asked Memer to create Leo from Yusuke (Eugene of YuYu Hakusho/Ghostfighter). I could say that, in fact I just did. The only problem would be that it's not true. We did NOT copy our characters directly from existing anime characters at the time of creation. Inspired perhaps by various anime and works in manga, but never copied. In fact, the original character designs of ODID reside in a sealed self-mailed envelope sent some four to five years ago. Before we ever saw an episode of YuYu Hakusho (Ghostfighter) and I think just before EVA was released in Japan. So we created Clarissa first, does that mean Gainax copied her? To say yes would be nonsensical. What does Gainax care if we created Clarissa before they created Misato thousands of miles away? But their characters were exposed first and are more popular, so we get to be the second stick of comparison.

Just because someone has an identical twin does not mean he/she is not unique does it? Memer might kinda' look like Ping Lacson but does that make him Ping Lacson? Of course not! Why do some characters look so similar? Because the human physique can only have so many variables with widespread appeal and because we have adapted the popularized art style of the Japanese; we cannot avoid being compared. It makes us that much easier to be singled out as copycats. It's also why we get mails that say "alam n'yo medyo kamukha ng ginawa ko'ng karakter yung karakter n'yong si...." Also we have to remember that appearance alone does not define a character/individual. It is the combination of appearance and personality, of the surface and content, that does.

Every artist starts out by emulating someone else's style. Slowly but surely the artist comes to his/her own. When the style veers only slightly, it takes a trained eye to see the difference. Art is supposed to be a way of self-expression. It seems so inappropriate for something so intimately human like personal expression be bound by the concept of nationalities. That the sharing and exchange of ideas through self-expression be limited by something so divisible a concept.

Comic books is the marriage of two pre-dominant art forms, that of literature and of the visual arts. But comic books, for the most part, are a visually based form of entertainment. Which explains why it is so natural for people to see the surface of a comic book and tend to forget to give the content, intention and the idea due merit.

"Original" as defined by the Merriam Webster's Dictionary, is said to be something composed first-hand and something with a fresh initiative, concept or design. It is also synonymous to being inventive. Let's look at Culture Crash as a whole, the art style, the language, the setting, the articles, the digest-size, the anthology format, etc. Is it not a fresh and inventive concept as a whole? Did we not compose it first-hand? As with the comic book part of CC, the publication itself has to be looked upon as a whole. So new is our concept that even we can't figure out whether we should be called a magazine or comic book. Everyone is entitled to his/her personal opinion, but as someone who practically grew up within the publishing industry, has studied and kept pace with people from publishing giants like Bertelsmann, Random House, Time and Reader's Digest, has been around Asia, Europe, and the U.S.; I can say this: I have never seen any publication with the same concept/format. It is also a very fresh product for the Philippine market.

Comic books are a form of entertainment. And in the end, that is what truly matters to us as creators. To see people appreciate our work and be entertained. Does this mean Culture Crash is against the Filipino? Are we sell-outs to our own culture? Does it mean that our work is not Filipino? Have we wronged those who have so far felt nothing but Filipino pride for Culture Crash? I humbly submit to you my answer: no. We are incalculably proud to be called Filipino. But that is a topic for another day…

JLP

CC COM GRAFFITI

ALL CCCOM FAN ART ISSUE!!!

Welcome to yet another installment of CCCOM Fan Art Gallery where we showcase an assortment of Filipino talents!

Our mailbox has been flooded with fan art ever since we printed the first batch of artworks last issue and we'll try our very best to have all your works grace the pages of Culture Crash!

To make it easier for us... please send us artwork no bigger than 8½ x 11 (short bond paper size) colored or black and white. For e-mail entries, it should be no bigger than 6 x 8 inches 72 dpi, in jpeg format... zipped files recommended for faster download time. (Please make sure that your work is 100% virus-free, ok?) ;) please send them to: cccomfighters@email.com

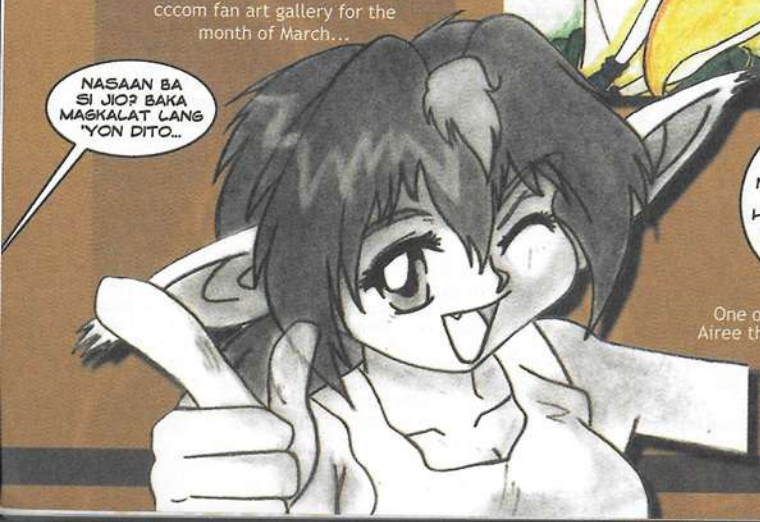
Now, without further ado, we present to you (drumroll) the cccom fan art gallery for the month of March...

This excellent piece of art was sent to us by a member of SUKOL, a comic book enthusiast group in Cebu. Daghang sa inyong tanan!

Vinson Ngo
Cebu City

ODID Duo Jun and Diwa... Lagot ka kay Clarissa, Jun!

Dino G. Belardo
Rizal

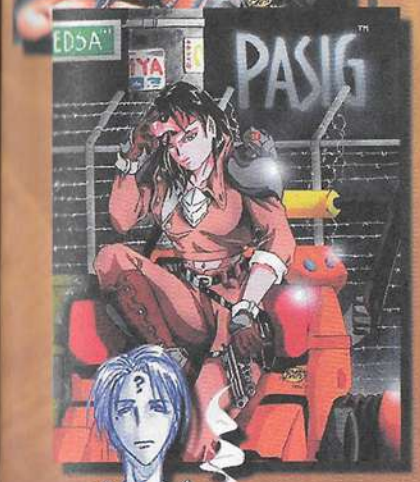


One of the first few sketches of Airee that we got... Great charcoal work Jerremae!

Jerremae Agaton
San Mateo Rizal

Oh my Gawd! Raya's nekkid!!! Solstice and Pasig characters Heavy Metal style... Galing ah! gumagawa ka ba sa t-shirt?

Erwin Esmeria
Via Internet

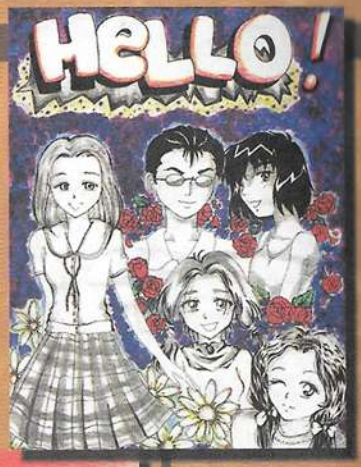


This one came all the way from New York! First full-blooded American fan art to grace the pages of Crash! A friend of ours sent a copy of CC to her e-mail buddy in the states along with a translation and this is what we got. Cool job, Ran! Say hello to David Letterman for us!

Ran Fujimiya; Via Internet
(not his real name)

Jae Rodney's rendition of Clarissa, Jun and Mikaella... Memer: Whoohoo!!! I wish I could draw Clarissa like that! But then again, James would kill me.

Jae Rodney Fernandez
Andres Bukid MM.



Leo and Laura?! You'll never see them this close ever again... well maybe, but... umm... nah!!! Oh by the way, who's that FEU student and those other two? Nice work on Clarissa too!

Cherisse May Aguilion
Novaliches, QC

Whoow! Looks like Joanne's developing quite a following! I guess being the most effeminate of the Solstice crew doesn't hurt much... And to think, we haven't even told you much about her!

Kathleene Pacao
Taguig, Metro Manila

Dante and Mina ala SNK!!! Excellent work, Deedrick! Now if you'd only stop giving away Taga-ilog's plot... hehehe just kidding!

Deedrick

Uhmm... if that's a typo on Mina's shirt, it's definitely not our fault... But hey! we really loved your water-color rendition! Keep it up!

Liezl Buenaventura
Via Internet

CCCom babes galore!!! Plus an entertaining letter to boot! Hehehe... We got your real name (we think) Mr. Anonymous! ;)

Skybastian; Via Mail

What the?! I thought this was supposed to be an all CCCom fan art section?! Oh well, Marvin's work was supposed to have come out earlier but we had some trouble jamming his 15 x 20 artwork into our 8½ x 11 scanner... imagine the tiling work on this one! It was well worth it anyway!

Marvin Malaque
Tatalon, QC

LETTERS to the staff

Write us at: cc_kom@hotmail.com or at J.C. Palabay Ent., Inc./ Culture Crash C 67 Gen. Ordoñez St. Marikina Heights, Marikina City 1811

Thank God nakuha ko rin yung issue 4 n'yo. Inaway ko pa nga yu'ng babae kasi mas nauna ko nakita yu'ng magz. CC fanatic din kasi. But enough about her, she's not that cute naman....mas cute ako. (hehehe concieted.)

Nakita ko na nga yung add ninyo sa pag o-order pero medyo masakit yata sa bulsa ko. Talaga bang tag 85 per copy dyan sa Manira (este) Manila pala, Nahawa na tuloy, Kasi dito e 80 pesos lng.
Me natitira pa bang 1st and second issue?
Nanette
(via the Internet)

Hey CC,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the success of this comic magazine.

I read about the "all price high" of your comic. It's okay by me, (basta ba hindi kayo mawala) pero "asar" din ako dahil sa National Bookstore wala nito at sa 7-Eleven ko pa natagpuan. Namiss ko tuloy ang 2nd issue. One day, Isang Diwa pa naman ang cover. But I will be proud kung magkakaroon ako ng 2nd copy. Dahil I don't wanna miss a thing (Kumanta ba?) 'Yun ay kung may stock pa kayo. Comic collector na talaga ako simula pa n'ung Grad six hanggang ngayong 2nd year.

We're supporting you guys! Keep up the good work!

Eleonor P. Cruz
Pasig City

Hmm... I wish you had specified which National Bookstore. Anyway, CC is now available nationwide at 7-Eleven stores. To knowledge, we're pretty much available at all National bookstor as well, just well hidden at some branches. The distributor of Reader's Digest handles our distribution there, maybe that info help.

As for ordering back issues, well, you could try sending us money or check orders but if we're out of stock we'll just retur the money. I'm afraid you'll have to shell out a 100 pesos per copy though. Also please read the last part of my editorial on availability.

Sorry we ran out of space for your artwork Eleonor, hope y parents aren't too disappointed. Maybe next time okay?

Sa mga bumubuo ng CC COM,

Kamusta na kayo? Iyong issue 4 ba't ganon? Pebrero na ako nagkaroon Tapos wala pang malapit na mapagbibilhan noon, dati kasi ay mayroon CC Co National na malapit sa amin, ngunit ngayon ay wala na. Ngayon ay kailangan maglakbay at bumagtas ng daan patungo sa Greenhills o kaya sa Megamall makabili lamang noon.

Ngunit naging sulit naman ang aking paghihintay sapagka't naging magan ang kinalabasan ng pagbabagong-anyo ng inyong komiks. Mas gusto ko nga ngayon ang papel na ginamit ninyo sa komiks. Dahil ako ay pasmado, sa tuwi binubuklat ko ang mga pahina ay tila naaaninagan ko ang mga bakas ng akin daliri sa glossy na papel. Ngunit ngayon... hindi na! Mas maraming pahina, maraming drawing, mas maganda ang ginamit na coloring effects at mas ma May gitnang lupi (centerfold) pa! Yung paborito ko pa! Ang saya-saya niyo n at naisipan ninyong pagsama-samahin sa iisang kuwento ang mga tauhan mu iba't ibang kuwento at kayo rin. Hi, hi, hi! Hindi rin pala marunong magluto s katulad ko. Sa kabuuan ay talagang maganda. Soitsu wa subarashii! (that wa simply great!) Ipagpatuloy niyo pa ang magandang trabaho... Kayong mga kagalang-galang na mangguguhit, mga dakilang mangkukulay at kanyak-iyak n mga manunulat!

Maraming salamat sa pakikinig!

Bumibili ng CC Comics,
Janice Barcenas

Maraming salamat Janice! Hmmm... buti na lang okay lan 'yo kahit maghintay ng kaunti. Medyo halo ang nakukuha nam reaksyon sa bagong papel na aming gamit. Sabi ng iba, mas g nila, sabi ng iba, ibalik ang dati. Sa ngayon ay nangunguna a dami ng may gusto ng bagong papel. Pero tandaan n'yo, baka kailangan na naman itaas ang presyo pag babalik pa sa dating papel ng pareho ng bilang ng pahina! Kinuwento rin ng kaunti Janice ang kanyang ginagawang nobela "Yukan Monogatari" (T of Yukan). Medyo parang Ruroni Kenshin ang dating nito. Hin kasi kasya Janice! Pasensya po!

Dear CC Com staff,

Hi! I'm Francus Clement D. Quilantip. I'm a 16-year old Senior High Schoo student and I live in Las Piñas City. I like your comics a lot.

Nandoon ako nung Anime Explosion 2000. Kahit malayo ang pinagganap nito, pumunta pa rin ako sa SM Megamall kahit umuulan. Mabilis ako ng nakarating salamat sa MRT. Nakita ko ng personal si Ms. Yuu Watase (thanks the info on her) hangang-hanga ako sa kanya. Pati rin kayo, nakita ko kayo Nuong una, gusto ko nang bumili ng first issue kaso nga lang, maraming taon nakapaligid sa inyo kaya pumunta ako ng National para bumili ng second issu Nagtaka ako sa presyo, P75, ang mahal naman. Binili ko na rin ito kahit mah

LAST MINUTE STUFF

(na 'di na nagawan ng matinong layout)

SEGA QUITS! - Sega will be quitting the hardware business and will now concentrate on being a software publisher/developer. Because of the dismal performance of the DreamCast in the Japanese market, Sega has decided to move on to greener pastures. Shenmue 2 will probably be one of the last titles for the DC, as they will now be busy making games for the Gameboy Advance and PS2.

COSPLAY IN THE WORKS?!? - Facts are still sketchy but we have been told that a cosplay event is in the drawing board. May 15 is the probable date. Locations being thrown around range from somewhere in Cubao to a big university gym. Probably Ateneo, UST, or U.P. They say this one will be more fan-oriented with more merchandise available. Artfarm Asia is responsible for planning the event.

JET LI - We reported back in issue 2 that Jet Li will be starring in Matrix 2 and 3. The buzz around the net is that the studio was short-changing his paycheck so he's off the film. The Wachowski brothers are still targeting a martial arts expert, but no news on who.

GAME BOY ADVANCE - The new Game Boy advance was just released in Japan last March 21. It costs approximately $83, you can probably get one somewhere in Greenhills by the time you read this. It has a 32 bit RISC-CPU and is able to display over 32,000 colors.

SUBSCRIBERS - Culture Crash subscribers will get their mystery gifts upon delivery of their last issue on subscription. We are working on them even as I write this. Hope you guys like 'em!

CC Com Sites - Still no official site but here are some cool sites for you, including the online translation: www.geocities.com/cckomtransiations/, www.geocities.com/pinoycomicsrulez/, www.crash.to/culture, www.geocities.com/xynodras/,go.to/culturecrash, ami.animenetwork.com/culturecrash/,www.geocities.com/jagancrash/ and of course Mr. Damaso's personal site: www.geocities.com/ichiro_yoko/

Nang binuksan ko na, ang ganda ng mga nilalaman pala nito. O.D.I.D., Cat's Trail, Solstice Butterfly at Pasig. Pinoy na pinoy ang dating! About the price, ok lang kung P75 kahit P100 pesos. Basta maganda ang graphics and articles. Tutal naman every month ang labas nito, kaya ko 'tong paq-ipunan. Nakakaipon rin akong pambili ng pre-paid para sa cell ko. Is it true that some of the anime that I see on TV is actually created by the Filipinos? Kung totoo yon, ang galing ng mga pinoy. Very creative! Tulad n'yo. Parang Japanese animation ang dating pero Pinoy! Pero wala pa akong first issue, pwede bang pahingi na lang?

Hangang-hanga ako sa isa sa mga writers n'yo. Sa O.D.I.D., nahanap ko yung mga S.P.C. doon. Galit na galit kay Jun dahil kasama n'ya si Clarissa. May nabasa ako sa O.D.I.D. na medyo challenging sa akin. Nuong 2nd issue "Bakit walang 'H' sa New Technology sa huling cover?" Pwedeng pakisuri?

More power and God bless!
Francus Clement D. Qualantip
Las Piñas City

Nagkaroon kasi kami ng typo sa cover ng first issue. "New Tecnology" ang na-print imbes na "New Technology". Patungkol sa first issue, order ka na lang sana. Check mo na rin ang editorial page kung saan maaring me back issues pa.

Maraming anime ang nagdaan sa kamay ng Pinoy pagdating sa animation process, gaya ng Dragon Ball Z, GT, Slam Dunk, Trigun at marami pang iba. Pero kahit naman ang Pinoy Artist na 'di gumagawa ng anime ay magaling rin naman 'di ba?

Hi people!

Well, I kinda' like your komiks. Actually kumpleto ko four volumes. Excited na ko sa susunod! I liked O.D.I.D., Pasig, and Cat's trail.

I first saw it at a bookstore. I liked the cover so I bought it, saka mura kasi eh! Ngayon kinokolekta ko na siya.

Suggestion ko lang, habaan n'yo pa, kasi parang sobrang ikli ng mga kwento eh! He, he, kung pwede lang naman. Sheesh! Kaka-excite ang stories! Keep up the good work!

Your no.1 fan,
Doreen Molina
Marikina City

Hindi pa namin kayang habaan muli sa ngayon ang mga kwento eh! Pasensya na lang Doreen, kami rin naiinip na nga eh. Sana'y maayos na agad namin ang production schedule para hindi na kayo mahirapan sa paghihintay. Maraming salamat! Pasensya rin pala at naubusan na kami ng space para sa drawing mo.

Konnichiwa!

After I read your comic book from my schoolmate I got so excited that I bought all four issues! It impressed me because I myself am making a story, a comic book, soon to be a world-wide famous cartoon anime! (eh... charing!) Maybe I could put up some hint or idea for my comic to be exciting and fun to read.

By the way, may I ask in what way did you guys started to draw? Is it in-born talent or did someone teach you? I'm only 14 years old, 2nd year HS and from Pacita, Laguna. I really want to meet you guys in person, 'cuz I have so many questions to ask you. Can I work for you? My dream was to be the first Filipina who will create a cartoon just like the Vision of Escaflowne, Sailormoon, Samurai X and especially Magic Knight Rayearth. Since some of my stories are anime-inspired, I was wondering if you could help me guys out?

I wish you luck! Hope this leads to an international comic book and eventually animation! I'm really proud of you guys, ipinagmamalaki ko kayo sa parents and classmates ko. I don't care how much it costs, kung para sa inyo ok lang! And don't push yourselves too hard 'cuz we could wait a decade! I'm really waiting for your answer, don't make me turn into a Stan! (Eminem)

Your follower,
Nikki Lou Palafox Pernes
Laguna

In our case, it is both in-born talent and something that is learned. You pick-up tips here and there and adapt to whatever works for you. It's a different combination for everyone. For more tips, just keep reading the "How We" series, hopefully you find the info there helpful.

Alam n'yo, unang kita ko palang sa CC ay binili ko na agad ito. Akala ko manga, gawang Pinoy pala! Ibang klase, perfect! I'm so impressed even my friends. We love your comic a lot, sarap basahin kahit paulit-ulit. Nakakalimutan ko nga mga problema ko eh! Gaganda ng mga stories n'yo, pati mga babes! Ang masasabi ko:

Solstice Butterfly – Hi-tech! Porma!
Pasig – Serious story, but beautiful.
(Ito mga hinahanap kong stories!)
Cat's trail – Hehe, I love this the most. Gustong-gusto kong subaybayan.
One Day, Isang Diwa – Cool! Ganda ng story, even the drawing and art!

Yung mga articles about hobbies, new technology, video games, gimik, fan manga, etc. Sana ipagpatuloy ninyo! Sinusubaybayan ko rin ang mga ito! Well, that's all guys! Congrats and keep it up!

Your no.1 fan,
Ivan Edward D. Francisco
Nueva Ecija

Dear Jescie(?),

You know I was buying medicine some time ago when I caught sight of an issue of CC. At first I thought it was just a newsletter of some sort. I thought there might be some good illustrations inside so I decided to buy one (good thing I had some bucks with me..)

Imagine my surprise, when I saw that this was a real comic book. I said to myself, Wow! Who would have thought? And such nice art too.

What I'm trying to say is, It's about time someone came out with a quality Filipino comic book. I know, I'm a nobody whose opinion would hardly affect anyone or anything. I just wrote in to tell you that there are people out there who appreciate what you're doing and what you're doing is a brave thing.

More power to you and may you have success in this worthy endeavor... :)

Joseph Anthony Yap
via the Internet

Actually, people like you make a world of difference for people like us. Thanks for appreciating our work everyone! Incidentally, CC will become available at Mercury Drugstores.

Hello!

I had planned to write to you guys when I got my 3rd issue but I kinda' procrastanated...a lot. Well anyways, I would just like to say I LOVE IT! I mean Culture Crash that is. Although I can't speak, and barely read filipino, due to the fact that I was born and raised in the westside of California. I am thankful that I can understand Filipino. Well back to the point. I have loved anime since my brother introduced me to Ranma 1/2 in 1996. But I have never read anime-based comics, untill now that is. What caught my eye about Culture Crash were the great drawings, this coming from a person who likes criticizing stuff. The thing that I like about CC and what makes it so unique is that it has non-anime stuff, and of course THE most creative back covers. Well keep up the great work!!! ^_^

Rinoa aka reirei

Hello! My name's daniel Seno from Camarines Norte. All I can say is ang galing talaga ng mga Pilipino!!! Pang world-class. I was browsing a month ago for a comic mag, then I saw CC. Sabi ko try ko nga(kasi may plastic yung mga mags dito). I bought the third issue. Sabi ng ate ko, maganda daw kasi parang boost sa mga artist dito sa Pinas. S'ya kasi ang nag-eencourage sakin na ipadala sa mga comic mags yung drawings ko. But I haven't tried that. Siguro pag magandang-maganda na yung drawings ko. Fave ko yung ODID and Pasig. Sana magkaroon din kayo ng mga action figures para cool!!! kudos!!!

Dann
Camarines Norte
(via the Internet)

Salamat Dann! Humingi nga pala si Dann ng drawings, pasensya na, pero hindi kasi kami masyadong nagbibigay via-mail. Good luck on your art!

To all the people who have been sending us mail thru text, thanks, we get them don't worry! Apologies to the people who have requests that we respond in some manner thru snail mail. It's too difficult to do this due to the amount of mail we get. To Jade and friends of Bacolod, we take your word, but please read the last editorial. Oh, and just try to apologize sincerely. (you know what we mean!)

NEXT ISSUE:
Articles (some) go local! NeoOtaku! OPM! Anime lyrics and chords! And fan-service galore! Watch out for our SUMMER SPECIAL!!!

AREAS AVAILABLE FOR SUBSCRIPTION

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SAN JUAN
MANDALUYONG
PASIG CITY
PATEROS
TAGUIG
PARAÑAQUE
LAS PIÑAS
MUNTINLUPA
MARIKINA
RIZAL PROVINCE
SAN MATEO
MONTALBAN
ANTIPOLO
TERESA
CAINTA
TAYTAY
ANGONO
BINANGONAN
CARDONA
MORONG
BARAS
TANAY
PAMPANGA PROVINCE
SAN FERNANDO
STA. RITA
GUAGUA
FLORIDABLANCA
ANGELES CITY
MABALACAT
MAGALANG
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CANDABA
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MINALIN
STO. TOMAS
MEXICO
STA. ANA
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PLARIDEL
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BALIUAG
BUSTOS
GUIGUINTO
BALAGTAS
BULACAN
BOCAUE
MARILAO
MEYCAUAYAN
SANTA MARIA
LAGUNA PROVINCE
CALAUAN
SAN PEDRO
BINAN
CABUYAO
STA ROSA
CALAMBA
CANLUBANG
LOS BAÑOS
COLLEGE LOS BAÑOS
BAY
CAVITE PROVINCE
CAVITE CITY
BACOOR
IMUS
KAWIT
NOVELETA
ROSARIO
GEN. TRIAS
TANZA
TRECE MARTIREZ CITY
NAIC
TERNATE
MARAGONDON
DASMARINAS
DASMARINAS
RESETTLEMENT
CARMONA
GEN. MARIANO ALVAREZ (GMA)
SILANG
TAGAYTAY CITY
INDANG
PROVINCIAL KEY CITIES
TARLAC CITY
TUGUEGARAO
CAGAYAN
BATANGAS CITY
NAGA CITY
LEGASPI CITY
SORSOGON, SORSOGON
CASIGURAN, SORSOGON
ILOILO CITY
SAN JOSE, OCC. MINDORO
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KALIBO, AKLAN
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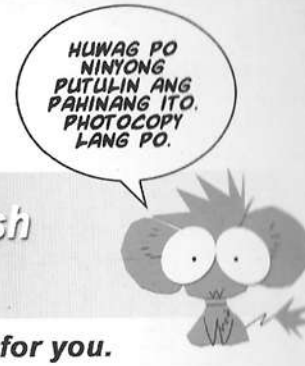

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